

Words make the music for George Bev Shea

By Mark Wingfield

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Although beloved by Christians worldwide as a singer, George Beverly Shea says attention to words has been his theme.

Shea, 83, presented two concerts at Walnut Street Church, Louisville, Ky., Feb. 15-16. He was accompanied by Don Hustad, senior professor of church music at Southern Seminary in Louisville.

Although these concerts weren't billed as an anniversary event, they marked 50 years of making music together for the two men. They first met in 1942 at a Chicago radio station owned by Moody Bible Institute and went on to work with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Shea has stayed with the Graham organization since 1947. Hustad left the crusade team in 1967 to teach at Southern Seminary.

Shea, perhaps best known for his rendition of "How Great Thou Art," said he realizes the world of sacred music has changed dramatically during his lifetime. "I'd be foolish to try to change with it," he said.

However, Shea said he appreciates many modern aspects of music ministry. When asked for advice from contemporary singers, "I say to them, make sure they've got good words and let them hear it," he said.

Hustad, who has accompanied Shea off and on for the past 50 years, said most of the songs Shea sings were popular 30 to 50 years ago.

"These are old, tired songs, but they come alive when he sings them."

The songs have impact, Hustad said, because Shea "is so word conscious. The word is the most important thing to him."

Shea admits some singers sacrifice words for a beautiful tone, but he uses vocal technique as a tool to frame the words. "We must get the message across," he explained.

Motive also is important for aspiring Christian singers, Shea counseled, predicting those who get into the business only for fame soon will fall away.

"Go ye into all the world and sing the gospel is not to sell records," he said.

Wingfield is news director of WESTERN RECORDER, Kentucky.



Baptists respond to environment

Baptists across the nation are responding to growing environmental concerns. Shown above, Leigh Eason's environmental activism was ignited when the creek she learned to swim in was deemed unsafe for her children's recreation. Forming Vision, an international organization that consults with churches and communities seeking to reduce waste, is Eason's way of educating people to environmental issues. "Everyone is living now with what we did 20 years ago," says Eason, who suffers from lupus, a disease she suspects she got from exposure to chemicals as a child in Montevallo, Ala. "Vision tries to work with communities on a Christian basis," says Eason. "Our motto is: 'The earth is the Lord's.' We work on respect for the Creator versus just the creation." For information about Vision, write Leigh Eason, Vision, P. O. Box 217, Montevallo, AL 35115. (Photo by Ken Touchton).

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Mother emerges from grief, publishes journal to help heal

COUSHATTA, La. (BP) — "Mom, I'm all right" was the last thing 14-year-old Weston Sandefer told his mother May 2, 1987. When Kathleen Sandefer saw her son several hours later, he was dead from a self-inflicted shotgun wound.

A divorced mother, Kathleen fought to hang on to her desire to live. In her slow journey on the road of grief recovery, she credits the loving support of her daughter, Shea, who was graduating from high school at the time, and the members of First Church of Coushatta.

Kathleen's grief process took longer than some thought necessary, she says, but it led to a deepened faith in God and unexpected ministries.

These ministries include writing a book, counseling with numerous persons who have faced similar problems, and sharing her story whenever and wherever opportunities arise. In doing so, she has extended her ministry far beyond her small northwest Louisiana community through various media.

In 1987 Kathleen never suspected the depth of depression her son was going through a month before his 15th birthday, she says, because the high school freshman tried to make his mother think things were normal.

She knew Weston was struggling with Attention Deficit Disorder, a chemical imbalance in the brain that causes poor motor control, a short attention span, and a lack of memory.

He was diagnosed with ADD at age 10 but she didn't know the drugs he was taking for the ADD made him susceptible to depression and suicide.

Kathleen believes Weston was deeply depressed, falling behind in school, craving acceptance from his peers, seeking to escape his problems through alcohol, and avoiding adult supervision.

Problems pushed Weston to the point he could see nothing but pain and failure in his future when he committed suicide, Kathleen surmises.

She found his body in his bedroom. Almost five years later, Sandefer still grieves for her son.

Sometimes, it is visible for a moment in her eyes or an expression on her face as she speaks about his death. Just as quickly, she can recall a happy memory of Weston and her face lights up. She is able honestly to say, "I'm all right."

Along the way, she has kept a journal of her feelings, thoughts, and impressions because she felt she could not or should not burden others with her tormenting memories, grief, and depression, she says.

Although Kathleen says she never planned to show anyone her journal, she has used parts of it in a book she has written, titled "Mom, I'm All Right."

Since it was published in 1990 she has sold more than 3,000 books and given away about 400 to libraries and people who have lost loved ones or

have a family member who suffers from ADD. The book has received the endorsement of the national Teen Suicide Prevention Task Force.

In addition to the individuals she meets personally, Kathleen says she has corresponded with many more persons who have read her book or heard her speak. Since the book was published, she says she has received more than 200 letters from persons who have had similar experiences, wanted more information on ADD or suicide or wanting to promote the book. Last week, she received a letter from a support organization for suicide survivors in Australia about promoting the book.

Despite Weston's problems as a teen-ager, Kathleen says she takes comfort in knowing he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and requested baptism prior to his death.

"Having a Christian faith and communicating with God in the depths of my soul was the only way I got through some of the darkest days."

"Claiming promises I found in the Bible was all I had to hang on to some days. But I had to seek him," she says.

Additional information on ADD, parental guidelines for early detection, suggestions for teachers of ADD students and addresses of support groups are available by writing the National Children of ADD, 499 N.W. 70th Avenue, Suite 308, Plantation, FL 33317 or phoning (305) 587-3700.

Oklahoma policemen unite, witness

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Zimbabwe is his parents' mission field. His is the streets of Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma City police sergeant Kevin Johnson knows the heartache, death, ungodliness, temptation, and stress facing police officers daily.

To counter all that, he started a Christian law enforcement organization.

The Fellowship of Christian Law Enforcement was organized in 1989 with four police officers — Charles Bingham, Jim Kennedy, Richard Smith, and Johnson — who saw a need in law enforcement for a Christian witness.

"It's tough to walk a Christian life in this type of work," Johnson said.

He was raised in the home of Baptist preacher, Ernest Johnson, who became a missionary in Zimbabwe three years ago. Ernest Johnson was pastor of Wilmont Place Church in Oklahoma City 13 years before his call to missions.

Johnson, who felt the call to be a missionary at Falls Creek, Oklahoma Baptists' summer youth camp, said he sees his role on the police force as mission work.

"If I were a preacher, I would be serving in a closed Christian environment but here it's a lifestyle in relating to others."

Johnson was influenced while he

was growing up by two police officers at church, Bingham and Jeff Barnett. He went riding in the police car with Bingham one night and although it scared him he still was excited by the action.

He had worked for a paint contractor since he was 14 and started his own paint contracting business when he was 20 — two months before he married his wife, Tara. But after the ride

in the police car with Bingham, Johnson and his wife began to pray and felt the Lord calling him into police work.

The organization, which now has between 130 and 150 members, is funded through donations. The basic ministry is within the police force but there also is a desire for the community to know there are Christian police officers.

First Church, Oxford, will celebrate sesquicentennial

Members of First Church, Oxford, are planning a two-day sesquicentennial celebration, May 16-17, to celebrate the founding of the church in 1842.

Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the featured speaker Saturday evening. A fellowship is planned in the Christian Life Center afterward. Former pastors and former members of the ministerial staff will be honored guests at the reception.

On Sunday, Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, will speak at the morning worship service. Leavell's uncles and families made significant contributions in the life of First Church.

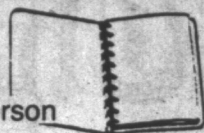
Former pastors, invited to share in the celebration, include James E. Southerland, who served 1954-1957; Schuyler M. Batson, 1958-1961; Wayne Coleman, 1962-1973; Lewis G. Sewell, 1975-1981; Edward L. Cooper, 1982-1988. Jerry W. Massey began his ministry in 1989.

Walker Coffey, a member of First Church for 52 years, is editing a history of the church. The present sanctuary, on the corner of Van Buren Ave. and 9th Street, is the fourth building which has served the membership.

Members of the sesquicentennial committee include Larry Overstreet, chairman, Coffey, Mary Alice Smith, Sybil Hill, Mary Chrestman, DeDe Fitts, and Jesse P. Phillips.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



How can we lose?

Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Church, Marietta, Ga., for 26 years, will be nominated for SBC president in Indianapolis. Price is a native Mississippian. He is a successful pastor, and leads a fast-growing congregation.

Ed Young, pastor of Houston's Second Church, has indicated he will be nominated by Joel Gregory at the same convention. Second, Houston, is a megachurch and has been recognized nationally as one of our great churches. Ed is from Laurel, Miss.

Then some months ago Jerry Clower announced he would nominate Jess Moody, First Church, Van Nuys, Calif., to be Convention president. Moody hopes to be the candidate to bring us together. He pays tribute to the fundamental-conservatives for bringing us back to the Bible, and to the moderate-conservatives for polity, such as the freedom of the individual and the local church's cooperation with other Baptist churches.

Then last month Morris Chapman was elected to be president of the SBC Executive Committee. He

will administer the \$140 million Cooperative Program budget. Chapman, a Mississippi College graduate, is a native son of Kosciusko. Add all of this together and you wonder how Mississippi can lose. We are proud of all of them as they reflect much credit to family, churches, RA chapters, and college ministries in the Magnolia State.

A dozen years ago there would have been shouting in the street with marching bands and pennants flying. They are all good men, dedicated to what they see as a noble cause. This noble cause has produced a conservative resurgence resulting in the Bible being magnified and Southern Baptists making it clear that liberalism will not be tolerated. This is great, and most Baptists applaud them for it.

However, the manner in which this was accomplished is suspect. There was a takeover of the Convention, including every agency, board of trustees, the mission boards, and our seminaries. This has not always boded well for Southern Baptists. Suspicion and

mistrust are rampant, seminaries are in disarray, and mission boards demoralized. The pendulum just keeps swinging. Except for token gestures, some 45% of the Convention have been denied representation on the executive committees, among the trustees and agencies. Moderate-conservative Bible believers can seldom serve on important committees nor have a voice in major personnel or policy changes.

How can we lose? While we applaud our fellow Mississippians, the 45% must also be represented and given a voice in denominational affairs. The fundamental-conservatives have made their point loud and clear but the goose that laid the golden egg is about to succumb to the heavy hand of exclusivism.

Back off, ease up, give some room for broader representation. We do not want a split Convention nor to see the weakening of the Cooperative Program. Mississippi Baptists, yea the entire SBC, will be the losers if the spirit of exclusivism continues.

IN NEED OF THE HIGHER KNOWLEDGE



What in the world are they doing?

Sometime ago a lady called the Baptist Building and wanted to know if she could reserve a room. "I'll be in town a couple of days, and thought I may as well stay there." Once again, there was no room at the inn.

Did you ever wonder what those people do at the Baptist Building? Well, for one thing, they meet monthly for staff meetings. Last week I sat in on one and was impressed at the multiplicity of ministries.

David Michel told of enlisting and training key people in churches (called the Champions Program) to spark Cooperative Program promotion. Marjean Patterson noted a renewed interest in youth camps plus all the preparation for the WMU annual meeting. She optimistically reported the Lottie Moon offering in Mississippi was \$4.5 million and could go over \$5 million.

The Gulf Coast, from Brownsville, Texas, to Miami, including four associations in Mississippi, is gearing up for Sunday School enlargement and crusades in 1993, said Garland McKee. Paul Harrell reported a 1,088 increase in Brotherhood enrollment, associational prayer leaders in 54 of our counties, and disaster relief training in two areas of the state. The "best thing is the strong interest in prayer." He also reported on the Zimbabwe Partnership and teams now going there almost every month.

Frank Simmons said he was busy in staff enlistment at Gulfshore and reservations are now beginning. The encampment is now used year-round. Ferrell Blankenship and crew are making a video on new work, producing a slide presentation for WMU, and reported a Family Enrichment Series will be broadcast soon on the ACTS network.

Add to all this the work of the Music Department in festivals, camps, workshops, and retreats, plus the supportive ministries to churches and associations. The Cooperative Missions Department working in new church starts, chaplaincy, language work, interfaith witnessing, and pastoral/church building aid makes you glad to be a Baptist. We cannot mention all, but the Student Work on 34 campuses is coordinated here, funds are received and sent on to the Foreign and Home Mission Boards, and to our seminaries via the Cooperative Program by the Business Office.

Of course, there is all the correspondence, visits, conferences, and training sessions which constantly make use of our facilities. You will see "A Ministry of the Cooperative Program" on many bulletins and brochures, just as a reminder to you (and to us) of those who make it possible. We have been known to even make hotel reservations, but that is not our main job.

— GH

Guest opinion...

Scriptural view on homosexuality

By Howard T. Scarborough

In this generation, homosexuals are now coming "out of the closet." They march in the streets, proclaiming loudly that they demand their rights and that there is "nothing wrong with what I am doing."

This way of life — lesbian and homosexuality (referred to here simply as homosexuality) — is absolutely not the result of a quirk with which one is born, nor caused by a difference in one's brain make-up. No person has ever, nor ever will be, born with an irrevocable predisposition to this or any other sin.

Jeremiah 31:29-30 states that everyone will die for his own sin. We make our own choices and plot our own courses.

One of the most solemn statements in the Bible is in Mark 7:14-23 (NIV), in which Jesus speaks of the problem of sin for each of us: "What comes out of a man makes him unclean.... For from within... out of men's hearts come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, ...murder, adultery... All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean."

Hebrews answers the statement often used by homosexuals, "I realized that I was different; it was

just a natural reaction for me to declare my homosexuality." "...Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles..." (Heb. 12:1b NIV).

The fact is that all of us have sin by which we can be easily entangled. Nevertheless, this is a choice on the part of the individual.

God is not the author of any kind of evil. This fact is affirmed by James: "...by our own evil desires we are dragged away and enticed" (James 1:13-15 NIV).

Paul in I Corinthians 10:13 states that we are able with the help of God to overcome any sin we face. Temptation is common to all of us. God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted above that which you are able to overcome. He will always provide a way out, so you can stand up under temptation.

Though homosexuality is never mentioned in the Bible as an unpardonable sin, we see in Genesis 18 and 19 how God regards those who continue to indulge in it.

Both the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were wiped off the map by act of God. Homosexuality is always spoken of in a negative manner in the Bible.

In the old Levitical Law homosexuality was condemned: "Do not

lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable" (Lev. 18:22 NIV).

In the New Testament we find God's attitude expressed in unusually plain language (Rom. 1:21-32).

Solemn warnings are given to us by God in Romans 1:32: "...they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death."

I Corinthians 6:9 reiterates this warning: "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived... neither male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders will inherit the kingdom of God" (NIV).

As the Corinthian Christians came to realize that all have sinned (Rom. 3:23-24), believed on Christ (Acts 16:31), called upon the name of Lord (Rom. 10:13), confessed their sins, and trusted him as Savior, they were washed, sanctified, justified by the name of Jesus and the Spirit (I Cor. 6:11 NIV).

God hates all sin, but is not willing that any should perish. Nothing can ever separate us from his love.

Scarborough is retired pastor of Temple Church, Jackson.

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"Shall we gather at the river?"

By Tim Nicholas

Gary Farley opened the meeting, quite naturally, with a rendition of "Shall We Gather at the River?" on his harmonica.

The Home Mission Board staffer with responsibilities for missions in communities of under 50,000, was meeting with church leaders in Natchez to talk about a new project to involve Baptists in counties along the Mississippi River.

Farley, along with Richard Brogan of the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, met with church leaders not only in Natchez, but in Greenville, Rosedale, Vicksburg, and Clarksdale.

They pointed toward a Mississippi

River Ministry Convocation to take place Aug. 7-8 at Eudora Baptist Church, Memphis.

Purpose will be to gather people with needs and ideas for ministry along the river. A total of 127 counties border the river with seven state conventions, 2,375 Baptist churches, and 942,000 members. Local and regional associations will identify and propose projects and activities aimed at providing a witness. These are to be presented during the convocation possibly at a missions fair there.

Farley said the steering committee, made up of state missions directors of the seven river states (Mississippi, Tennessee, Illinois, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Missouri) envision about a 10

to 15 year project. Besides these planners for the convocation are the HMB, WMU, and Brotherhood Commission. Farley emphasized that the states will have final say-so on which projects they want going.

Pointing to another ongoing regional ministry — along the Rio Grande in Texas — Farley said that more than 420 churches have been started and continue as a result of that ministry.

Adams County Director of Missions Dale Little opened the meeting up to questions. At that point, Dee DeBold, pastor of Immanuel Church, Natchez,

(See RIVER on page 9)



Pictured from left are Dale Little, Dee DeBold, Joshua DeBold, Rebecca Pickering, Don Womble, Richard Brogan, and Gary Farley, participants in Natchez at an awareness conference for an upcoming Mississippi River Ministry Convocation.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

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HMB president calls for denominational healing

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — Saying the issue of inerrancy has been settled, the president of the Home Mission Board said now is the time for healing and reconciliation.

"Much has been said about broadening the tent. It is time to make that rhetoric reality," Larry Lewis told Home Mission Board trustees during their spring meeting in Atlanta.

The term "broadening the tent" has been used to suggest the need to include moderates in leadership roles throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Southern Baptists have made it abundantly clear. We do believe the Bible is a trustworthy book — inspired, infallible, inerrant," Lewis said. "And we want our agencies and

institutions to reflect that position."

However, Lewis said conservatives in the convention need to dispel the perception they have created a "closed shop" where only people who voted for a particular political agenda are welcome.

Lewis said some people argue when moderates were in control of the convention, conservatives were not elected to convention positions.

"That may or may not be so, but one thing is certainly true — two wrongs don't make a right," Lewis noted. "If the shoe fit badly on one foot, it will fit just as badly on the other."

Ron Phillips, newly elected HMB trustee chairman, said he wholeheartedly supports Lewis' call for reconciliation. He noted Lewis was not asking Southern Baptists to com-

promise their beliefs.

Phillips, who is also pastor of Central Church of Hixson, near Chattanooga, Tenn., and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, said Southern Baptists "have got to pull together" to accomplish their mission tasks.

Brad Allen, newly elected first vice-chairman, agreed it is "time for those of us who are involved in missions and evangelism to band together and do the work."

However, the pastor of First Church of Duncan, Okla., noted people are asked to serve on Southern Baptist boards through a committee process that begins with the SBC president.

"I think they have the opportunity to enlarge the tent," Allen said.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

Romanians reject money intended for Swiss

By Mike Creswell & Stanley Crabb

BUCHAREST, Romania (BP) — Romanian Baptists have refused to accept \$20,000 reallocated to them by the Foreign Mission Board from funds originally earmarked for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

A letter faxed to the Foreign Mission Board on March 3 stated, "Because of the misunderstanding raised around this subject and supported by the Baptist press concerning our stand, we cannot accept this money." The letter was signed by Vasile Talos, president of the Romanian Baptist Union, and Nic Gheorghita, general secretary.

Talos indicated Romanian Baptists would be willing to accept Foreign Mission Board assistance if the money involved was not that which had been reallocated from Ruschlikon. "If (the) Foreign Mission Board decided to support financially the Baptist churches of Romania and their institutes from other funds than

those appropriated to Ruschlikon initially, we would gladly accept any help," he wrote in the March 3 letter.

The \$20,000 was part of the \$365,000 Foreign Mission Board trustees cut from the Ruschlikon seminary last October, an action they reaffirmed in December. Trustees cited liberal theology and excessive costs as two key reasons for the defunding. But the defunding action also sparked a widespread backlash of protest from many Southern Baptists, including resolutions from 10 state Baptist conventions, and many European Baptists.

Steve Hardy, FMB trustee from North Carolina, said the Romanian refusal to accept the \$20,000 indicates "they want to deal with the Foreign Mission Board with as much integrity as possible."

Hardy, chairman of the trustee committee overseeing work in Europe, the Middle East, and North

(See ROMANIANS on page 8)

Fellowship chooses first "missioners"

By Greg Warner

ATLANTA (ABP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship moved a step closer to doing mission work in Europe March 13 when its Coordinating Council adopted a strategy for partnership with European Baptists and picked its first two "missioners."

Members of the council were told they soon will be asked to employ Charles and Kathie Thomas, the Southern Baptist missionaries to Romania who resigned in January to protest what they said was a new agenda for missions at the Foreign Mission Board.

Jimmy Allen, co-chairperson of the council's global-missions ministry group, said appointment of the Thomases will await a formal request from the Baptist union in France, where the couple served as FMB missionaries for 17 years and plan to return under Fellowship sponsorship.

The council also agreed to start an annual global-missions offering to help fund their projects. The global missions ministry group, which ex-

pects to spend about \$900,000 on worldwide projects in 1992, asked the council to budget \$2.5 million for the expanded mission efforts in 1993, with half of that earmarked for European missions.

At its last meeting in January, the Coordinating Council voted to hire Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe who are dissatisfied with the current direction of the Foreign Mission Board and who fit into the Fellowship's strategy for Europe.

In addition to appointing the Thomases, the Fellowship's strategy calls for hiring a stateside missions coordinator and European-based coordinator for missions on the continent. No candidates were announced, but Fellowship leaders acknowledge they would like to hire Keith Parker, former FMB area director for Europe, to fill the overseas post.

Fellowship leaders said adopting the European statement of principles

(See FELLOWSHIP on page 9)

Dean Cothen leaves New Orleans

By Lacy Thompson

NEW ORLEANS (ABP) — Joe Cothen, vice president for academic affairs at New Orleans Seminary, has suddenly resigned his position at the school effective immediately.

Although Cothen, 65, will leave his teaching and other duties immediately, he will receive full pay and benefits until July 31, when his resignation becomes official.

Seminary President Landrum Leavell cited Cothen's departure as "a great loss of a very brilliant academician." Trustees of the school also adopted a resolution last week affirming Cothen for his distinguished service at the seminary.

Trustees also affirmed Leavell's choice of Billy Smith, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, as the new academic dean.

Cothen's unexpected resignation left seminary faculty in shock and both Cothen and Leavell expressing regret over the way the situation developed.

From Cothen's standpoint, the precipitating event was a disagreement with Leavell over the launch of a baccalaureate program at the school.

Trustees approved the program during their March 10-11 meeting.

"The president wanted me to give approval on short notice, to the baccalaureate degree," Cothen said in an interview with the Louisiana Baptist Message. "I felt I could not do it."

Cothen responded to the disagreement by delivering a handwritten letter to Leavell's office while the president was out.

In the letter, Cothen cited health and

seminary interests in resigning his duties as academic dean.

"I love the seminary," Cothen said. "I'm sorry it ended like this."

In explaining the events to faculty and trustees, Leavell expressed some of the same sentiments. He cited his long-time friendship with Cothen.

"He leaves here with the love and admiration of all of us," Leavell said.

Trustees responded by affirming Leavell's leadership in the matter.

Trustees noted that the dean is employed at the school by the president.

Later, trustees also adopted a resolution of appreciation for Cothen. Following approval of the resolution, Leavell asked if he could be allowed

(See COTHEN on page 8)

Mississippi Baptists respond to Lauderdale tornado disaster

By Tim Nicholas

Three residents of the Jeffrey's Acres community at Zero, Miss., lost their lives in a post-midnight tornado, March 11 that also destroyed or damaged dozens of homes in a miles-long path five miles south of Meridian.

The disaster brought immediate response from local Baptists and those involved in statewide disaster response ministry through the Brotherhood Department.

Mt. Olive Church Pastor Ron McLellan got his first phone call at 1 a.m. Church folks had been thrown from their trailer and were on their way to the hospital. McLellan, like many residents of that part of the state, didn't go back to bed that night.

The couple ended up in critical condition, but lives. The daughter of another member was killed and the rest of her family injured. All three deaths were from the Jeffrey's Acres area and all lived in mobile homes.

One member whose stepson lost everything in the tornado, came up to McLellan, saying, "You were right, what you've been saying in your sermons, you were right." She had been listening, said McLellan, when he had told his congregation that possessions don't matter, spiritual things do.

Most of McLellan's time was spent in touching a hand or patting a back — simply being there with people who were hurting. "I've got feeling the touch of Jesus was sometimes more important than what he said," said McLellan. He had visited with a woman in I.C.U. who could only blink her eyes when he asked if he could pray for her. The next day she told him, "I remember your being here and it touched my heart."

Carol Taylor, minister of music at Mt. Olive, who said this tornado followed the same path as one that killed people in 1945, heard someone comment on the destruction of a tornado. She said friends were picking up what they could from a site when one person said of the family, "Their whole life was laid out for all to see."

McLellan said his church gave the smallest amount of all missions offerings to state missions, but he said he expected that to change. "They're going to pour more money into this community than our church has ever given to state missions," he said.

The first morning after the tornado — Jim Meadows, pastor at Long Creek, said he was certain two tornadoes had diverged near the church — Lauderdale director of missions Leon Young phoned to ask if the Enterprise Church feeding unit could park at Mt. Olive, and to ascertain the local needs.

Enterprise has built the only mobile kitchen other than the one operated by the Disaster Relief Unit of the Brotherhood Department. It is designed specifically for smaller needs such as the Zero disaster.

Lauderdale Baptists already operate a crisis center for food and clothing distribution, but quickly transferred that operation into the four churches closest to where the tornado hit — Mt. Olive and Long Creek, Mt. Horeb, Stan Cheatham, pastor; and New Hope, Mike Everett, pastor. Long Creek was the only church with damage, according to reports. It



Long Creek Church suffered a blown over steeple and other roof damage, plus damage to the pastorium of Pastor Jim Meadows.

lost its steeple, had some major roofing damage, and Pastor Meadows' pastorium lost its carport and may have had some structural damage.

The Enterprise Church unit began cooking Tuesday afternoon and the Red Cross distributed about 150 hot meals in the area that evening which the Enterprise group had cooked. Enterprise, looking for a missions pro-

ject, had sent volunteers to the tornado cleanup at Laurel a couple of years ago and noted that a smaller cooking unit might be handy. They built it themselves.

Jim Didlake, on-site coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit, and a staffer with the Brotherhood Department, said the unit fed between 400 and 500 per day and expected to close up on March 17.

Young had immediate calls from several associations ready to come help with the cleanup. One group which went last Friday was from First Church, Sardis. Pastor Jerry Sanford had only gone to Sardis from Mt. Horeb 11 months ago. He had been Mt. Horeb pastor for close to nine years.

He took his wife, son, three youths, and four other adult men who worked from early Friday morning to 2:30 Saturday afternoon. They cleaned up torn-down porches and garages, cleaned up a lot of trees and brush, and cleaned up shingles from roofs.

"Our men shared (Sunday night) at church — how it impressed them that all the physical things of life can be gone so quickly that it is the spiritual that lasts. They didn't even give me time to preach," said Sanford.

Leon Young said that despite the damage, the tornado "has opened many doors to witness and ministry."

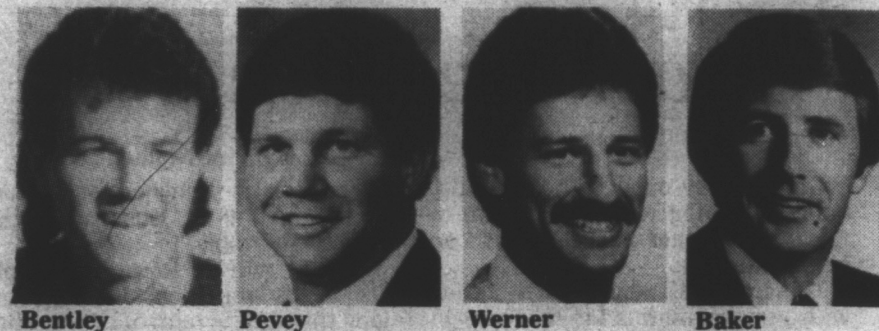
Said Ron McLellan of the follow-up to come, after all the volunteers go home, "People will have the pieces picked up, but lives have been shattered." He added, "I hope the church doesn't drop the ball."



At New Hope Church volunteers unloaded 300 crates of donated food from Sack and Save, then others sorted the food into baskets for families in need. Pictured is Syd Pickett on his spring break helping with the sorting.



This car, pretty well flattened by a tree, stands as evidence of the destruction brought about by the tornado that hit south of Meridian. At many home sites, only twisted pieces of metal remain. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)



Student leaders will train at Gulfshore March 27-29

The 1992 Mississippi Baptist Student Union Leadership Training Conference will take place March 27-29 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian.

Featured speakers will include Charlie Baker, Frank Pevey, and Scott Werner. Baker, pastor of Southern Hills Church, Tulsa, will deliver the keynote message Friday evening, and another on Saturday morning. Pevey, a missionary to Tanzania, will give a missions testimony and invitation on Saturday evening. And Werner, director of student ministries at Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla., will deliver the closing message Sunday morning.

Theme of the conference is "Heart, Soul, and Mind: The Building Blocks of Servanthood," with an interpreta-

tion provided by the BSU of Delta State University.

Music leader will be Chuck Bentley of Nashville. He will give a concert on Friday evening at 10 p.m.

A highlight of the conference will be a commissioning service Saturday evening for the 100 students appointed summer missionaries by Mississippi BSU. Tom McLaughlin, BSU director of Mississippi Delta Community College, will offer a missions challenge prior to Frank Pevey's testimony.

In addition to training for BSU officers, seminars will include "Qualities of an Ideal Leader," "Opportunities in Missions After College," and "Personal and Spiritual Goal-Setting."

The conference is sponsored by the Department of Student Work, MCB.

Decisions to be made on Fellowship's future

Decisions will be made regarding the future direction of missions and ministry by participants at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly, April 30-May 2 at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Theme of the General Assembly is "Presence and Promise."

"At the General Assembly, Baptist ideas will live," said CBF Moderator John Hewett of Asheville, N.C. "Every free Baptist will have the right to speak. Dissenting voices will be heard. Local company autonomy will be honored. The priesthood of every believer will be respected."

Cecil Sherman, former pastor of Broadway Church, Fort Worth, Texas, will be installed as coordinator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship during the final session Sat., May 2. Sherman will move to Atlanta to begin work April 1.

"We clearly are turning outward," Sherman said. "We are Christians seeking a mission and eager to be about it. 'This 'turned outward' group will gather in Fort Worth and begin doing gospel."

Since it was formed in Atlanta in May 1991, the Fellowship has begun to structure its work in five areas: world missions, theological education, literature for Christian education, ethics, and public policy, and "equipping the laity."

Speakers at the three-day General Assembly will include Samuel Proctor of New Brunswick, N.J., pastor emeritus of Abyssinian Church, New York City; Phil Lineberger, pastor of First Church, Tyler, Texas; Cheryl Collins Patterson, writer and editor, Fallon, Nev.; Paul Duke, pastor of

Kirkwood Church, St. Louis, Mo.; Linda McKinnish Bridges, assistant professor of New Testament at Baptist Seminary, Richmond, Va.; Bill Leonard, professor of religion at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; and Tillie Burgin, minister of missions at First Church, Arlington, Texas.

Theological education and missions became critical issues for the Fellowship in late 1991 when trustees of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention voted to defund International Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. Two FMB administrators with responsibilities for missions in Europe resigned, charging the trustee action caused irreparable damage to the FMB relationship and European Baptists.

The CBF Coordinating Council voted in January to fund the work of those Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe who no longer want to work for the Foreign Mission Board and who meet Fellowship criteria. A report of the Global Missions Ministry Group will outline details and guidelines of the missions partnership with European Baptists.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship had received \$241,000 for the seminary at Ruschlikon by late February. (This amount equaled 66% of the \$365,000 withheld by FMB trustees.) Hewett and a group of 50 Baptists visited Ruschlikon in late February. A report from that trip will be presented during the General Assembly on Friday evening, May 1.

In 1991 contributions to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship totaled \$4,517,000.

Lauderdale Director of Missions Leon Young said the area will need work crews for cleanup, construction, and repairs for an indeterminate amount of time. He said potential volunteers may call the four churches directly or the Lauderdale Association office at 483-1419 to get an assignment. Mt. Olive's phone number is 693-7316; Mt. Horeb is 693-3085; Long Creek is 693-2966; and New Hope is 693-4490.

"When we got married, we intended to stay married"

By Anne W. McWilliams

When they said, "for better or for worse," they meant it.

"When we got married, we intended to stay married," she said. Edythe and Norman Seale have stayed married, so far, for 57 years.

Considering the 50 percent divorce rate in the U.S., how did they manage that? What have they been doing right?

Back about 1928, the two met in Bude at his mother's house, when she was 14 and he was 28. "She jumped into my A-Model, cranked it, and drove it all around town," he remembers. That was remarkable because she had had no driving lessons. She was a bit too young for him then, but she was not easy to forget. He waited until she finished high school and studied at Co-Lin and then he married her Feb. 26, 1935, when she was 20 and he was 34. Two sons, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild later, they're still together.

"He lets me do what I want to do," she said. "He always let me grow. And I let him do what he wants to do. I do my thing and he does his."

Her thing is driving a tractor — she still likes to drive! "It's my life," she said. "I don't like housework, and I

want to be outdoors." Their home and farm are on what was once her family's (the Whittingtons') plantation in east Franklin County. Besides her flowers and vegetables, she plants oats and rye grass to feed their cattle. "We eat lots of vegetables," she said — "broccoli, cabbage, kale, turnip greens..."

For whatever she plants, she uses only organic fertilizer. Because it isn't sold in the county, she said, and she wishes it were, she must raise rabbits and chickens in order to have her own. "People are waking up, though," she said, "to the environment's being damaged by chemical fertilizers. The agricultural experiment station at Crystal Springs is beginning to use the organic. It makes all the difference in the world in the taste of vegetables. My tomatoes are so good!"

His thing is selling monuments for graves. At 92, he said he's never thought of retiring. "Yesterday I drove about 100 miles, and sold two," he said, as he sat in his pick-up truck and looked over his schedule for the day "I sold \$1,000,000 worth in 28 years." He added, "Selling is hard work. You have to stay in there and not quit." That, he said, is the secret of his success.

Also the Seales used to have a dairy. "But 20 beef cattle are about all I can look after now and work," he said.

One thing for sure that they have always done together is go to church. For two or three generations of children she's been teaching preschoolers at Concord Church, Franklin County. For years she was song director; now she sings in the choir. As the church's oldest member, he's been a deacon for 40 years. Just this year he gave up the Sunday School class he'd been teaching, but he still substitutes. Through the years, he's been Sunday School director, Brotherhood director, church clerk, church treasurer, associational Brotherhood treasurer, and Concord's representative on the association's Executive Committee.

Evidently the values they shared they passed along to their children. Their son Charlie is pastor of O'Zion Church, Franklin County. Their son Curtis, who sells insurance, is a member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, where his wife is librarian.

They communicate. They openly say to each other what they are thinking; their sense of humor shows. Some arts she has been able to

develop because her husband gave her room to grow are those of quilting, oil painting, and cooking. Her latest quilt creation features cross-stitched rose-colored flowers on a white background and bears the signature of her intricate stitches. "I belong to clubs of all kinds," she said.

Her egg pie recipe calls for 3 eggs, 3/4 cup sugar, 1 1/2 cups of milk, 1 tsp. vanilla. The pastry for it uses 1 1/2 cups flour; 1/3 cup shortening; and "water to hold that together."

The Seales' ability to keep working past what people normally think of as retirement years they credit to the fact that they have kept their minds and bodies active. He gets some of his exercise by cutting wood for their wood burning heater. Her eyesight is still so good that she wears no glasses, even for reading or quilting. She is a firm believer in what is called hand reflexology, a system of hand massage, and says this has helped to conserve her vision.

A commitment to the institution of marriage itself and a commitment to the Lord: these are the key reasons for their success in staying together 57 years.

Once when a pastor's wife asked



Norman and Edythe Seale on Feb. 26, 1992, celebrated their 57th anniversary.

Norman his favorite verse he mentioned one — though he said he has many favorites. However, she embroidered the one he quoted, and gave it to him. It sounds like one he and his wife would live by: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



No love letters without the ABC's

My writing efforts began with a love letter. At age 8, I became a ghost writer when I wrote a love letter for someone else.

We lived in a farm house a quarter mile from our cousin, Rebecca. My 5-year-old sister Betty would go down the hill every day to play with Rebecca, and often I'd go with her. A mile away lived Charles, the fellow first-grader Rebecca claimed as her sweetheart.

It was a summer morning in 1937, hotter than most of the Alabama nights when we chased lightning bugs or played tag under the stars. Days like this, free of school, Betty and Rebecca usually stayed busy in their playhouse with their dolls under the pecan trees or giggling in what Aunt Nellie called "the little room," where they slept when Betty spent the night. But suddenly on that day Rebecca decided she would like to write a letter to Charles. She got together the tools — her Blue Horse tablet, a pencil, and an envelope. After she and Betty talked about what to say, she began, but soon realized it might be harder than she had thought. Since Betty had not yet started to school, she could offer no help. But I had finished third grade; I gladly offered my services.

The chains squeaked as we glided back and forth in the wide front porch swing, but that didn't bother us. It was cooler there, and we were too busy to care anyhow. Out on the back porch the well windlass was squeaking too as somebody pulled up a fresh bucketful of water. Uncle Carter's hound dog growled. From the kitchen drifted the odor of frying ham, to mix with the smells of lilacs and peonies.

Though I don't remember just what I said in the letter, the gist of the message was "Dear Charles: I love you. Will you marry me when we grow up?" and it was signed "Rebecca." I addressed the envelope, and asked about a stamp. Rebecca dug three pennies out of her Sunday School purse, and she and Betty and I sat down on the rock wall beside the two big oak trees at the mailbox. Barefoot, we kicked our toes in the sand while we waited for the mail man. At last we saw his car top the hill in a cloud of dust and heard the crunch of gravel as he pulled to a stop in front of us. Rebecca bought the three-cent stamp, licked it, stuck it on the envelope, and handed it back to the mail carrier. He drove away with it on the front seat beside him.

A few days later, Charles' older sister paid a visit to Rebecca's house to ask the adults there a question:

"What about this letter my brother got this week? Who wrote it? I don't think Beck can write that well, in first grade." Now there was a mystery. It could have remained one. But Beck told, and I got the blame. I never knew what Charles himself thought of his first proposal.

From the day I learned that stories come in books, my love affair with the printed word took off like a rocket and it has never fizzled — love for words written by others and for the words that I am always trying to string together to say what I think and see and feel.

After some years, I even learned to write love letters to which I would sign my own name.

The writer of Ecclesiastes said, "Of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." Since that morning in the swing, I have written thousands and thousands of words. Today I calculated that this is perhaps my 777th column in the Baptist Record. No wonder I feel a weariness of the flesh!

Yet, how desolate the world would be without the alphabet, and its endless possibilities.

Even the Lord himself used it to send us the greatest Love Letter ever written.

Ballenger nominated to Richmond seminary faculty

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond will recommend Isam Ballenger to a new post as professor of missions and world religions.

Ballenger, 56, formerly the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, will begin

teaching this fall if approved by seminary trustees April 6-7 in Richmond, Va.

He took early retirement from the Foreign Mission Board following the board trustees' decision last October to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. He said he could no longer serve

because he felt the "conservative resurgence" in the Southern Baptist Convention was becoming "an agenda for the global missions effort." FMB trustees have denied the board has any agenda other than evangelism and missions.

O'Brien is managing editor, News and Information Office, FMB.

Alliance changes name

By R. Albert Mohler Jr.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — Members of the Southern Baptist Alliance voted to change their organization's name, dropping references to the Southern Baptist Convention and renaming themselves "The Alliance of Baptists, Inc."

The Alliance met March 5-7 at Charlotte's Providence Church for its sixth annual convocation.

Nancy Ammerman, a professor at Emory University and chair of the Alliance's constitution and by-law committee, said the name change reflects "the new place we find ourselves." She told the assembly "we know that we can no longer define ourselves primarily by where we have been," an apparent reference to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The name change was affirmed by a unanimous vote and numerous speakers expressed satisfaction with the move. The removal of any reference to the Southern Baptist Convention had, as participants understood, considerable symbolic

value. "Many of us no longer consider ourselves Southern Baptists," explained Stan Hastey, the Alliance's executive director.

Hastey said the Alliance would resist any effort to create a structure resembling the SBC, for the Alliance had moved on to its own agenda. In recent years the Alliance has explored joint mission projects with the American Baptist Churches, USA. Those ventures are now on hold due to insufficient funding.

In his address, Hastey told the convocation "we must face the fact that our movement's growth has been stalled." The Alliance currently reports 133 "affiliated congregations" with a total membership of 73,000.

The Alliance movement is, as Hastey stated, "a largely regional group," with 71% of their membership located in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Mohler is editor of CHRISTIAN INDEX, Georgia.

Bible Convocation is cancelled

By Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE (BP) — The nation's economy was cited by officials of the Baptist Sunday School Board as a primary factor in a decision to cancel the National Convocation on the Bible planned for April 21-23 in Nashville.

"It has become clear to us that many Southern Baptists who had hoped to attend cannot participate because of the impact of the economic downturn affecting our nation," Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School division, said in a prepared statement announcing the decision.

Registration totals by early March remained well below the 8,000 goal planners had for the three-day event which was to include a riverfront gospel singing, Bible preaching and teaching, more than 125 seminars, and teacher recognition.

White writes for BSSB.

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Students respond to Parks' call to missions

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptists stand before a door of unprecedented opportunity in world missions, the president of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board told students and faculty during Global Missions Week at Southwestern Seminary Feb. 24-28.

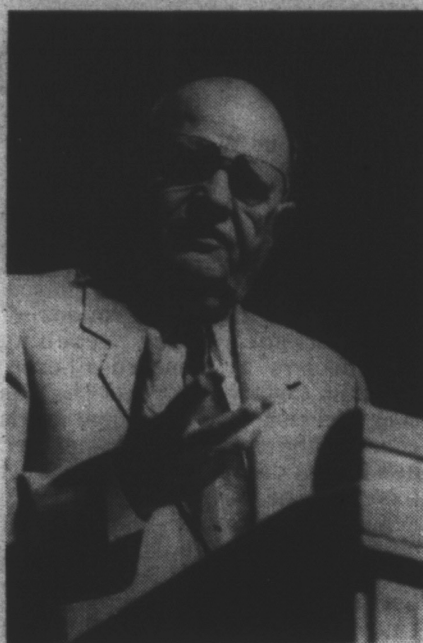
FMB President R. Keith Parks, along with 40 staff members from Richmond, Va., participated in the activities at the Fort Worth, Texas, campus. The week included special chapel services, classroom lectures by FMB personnel, and seminars. More than 75 students responded to Parks' invitation to become missionaries.

"I see an opportunity of evangelization that in my estimation has never faced a Christian generation before," Parks said during chapel Feb. 27. "I am convinced there are more people ready to respond to the gospel this day

than have ever lived at one time in all of human history."

Parks described a world which stands ready to respond to the gospel. He said in South America missiologists estimate 10,000 people a day come into evangelical churches. In South Korea, 25% of the population are evangelicals. In Guatemala, one-third of the population are evangelicals. Parks said last year the mission board experienced a 12% growth in baptisms, baptizing 233,334 people or one baptism for every 12 Baptists overseas.

"There is no doubt this type of conference brings back into focus what Southern Baptists are all about," student James Bruce said. "We can be distracted by denominational and personal problems but this focuses our attention back to what we are called to do."



Keith Parks

"Whites discuss others, never themselves"

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — While blacks, Hispanics, and Asians are often analyzed as ethnic groups, white Americans are seldom under the microscope, a Texas sociology professor told Southern Baptist leaders. "Black people, Hispanic people, and Asian people talk daily about who they are, but we (white people) don't," said Paul Geisel, a professor at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Southern Baptists comprise the largest "ethnic group" in the South, yet most Southern Baptists do not see themselves as "ethnic," observed Geisel, a Mennonite.

All churches, he explained, are ethnic churches. "You need to accept that and beautify it. Don't be ashamed of who you are and don't be afraid to talk about it."

Silence has oriented white youth towards the marketplace as the only worthwhile pursuit, not social change or helping others, he said.

"We do not debate how to change, we simply acknowledge that somehow or another it is going to happen," he said.

"Our brightest and best (youths) are disassociated," he said.

Most young adults are working in order "to live in the perfect home, drive the perfect car, work in the best job, and belong to the best club."

"Yet they belong to nothing," he said.

"Baptists reach Hispanics better than Catholics"

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Evangelical churches, with smaller congregations and intimate Bible study groups, are better poised to reach Hispanic-Americans than the Roman Catholic Church, a Baptist seminary professor said.

"We are now witnessing the greatest response on the part of Hispanic Americans to evangelical Christianity in the history of this nation," said Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions at Southwestern Seminary.

"How are we going to respond to the challenge?" asked Sanchez, one of the speakers at a Home Mission Board-sponsored leadership conference.

Sanchez quoted news articles on Catholics who acknowledged Hispanic Americans are leaving their traditional source of religion for evangelical churches.

Sanchez said reasons cited by Catholics include:

— Poor outreach efforts by Catholic churches.

— Willingness of Protestant churches to include Hispanic culture in their style of worship.

— An impersonal feeling in the Roman Catholic Church compared to smaller, more intimate evangelical congregations.

— A lack of Hispanic priests among Catholics.

"They (Catholics) say we have three times more Hispanics in our seminaries than they do," Sanchez said.

Sanchez added that the goal is to teach all people about Christ, not lure Hispanics away from one group to another.

But while "Catholics are saying we are being successful, we are saying we could be doing a lot more," Sanchez said.

He said small Bible study groups appeal to Hispanics, and Southern Baptists should develop a nationwide strategy using such groups to reach more Hispanic Americans.

Mary Jo Stewart:

Missionary on the move

By Debbie Baird Buie

Most folks may think that Mary Jo Stewart became a missionary in 1972 when God called her to the foreign missions field of Ecuador. But if you look at her background, perhaps you will agree she was a missionary long before that. The consistency in her service is her mobility — Stewart is a missionary on the move.

Many states might like to claim Stewart as favorite daughter but Mississippi is her home. Born in Caesar and raised in Lumberton, Stewart has served on the Woman's Missionary Union staffs of the Louisiana, Georgia, Northwest, and Arizona Baptist conventions. For eleven years she lived in El Paso, Tex., as a foreign missionary assigned to the Baptist Spanish Publishing House where she edited and produced missions materials in Spanish for WMU and Brotherhood.

Then, in 1989, Stewart felt she needed a rest from publishing. "I took a leave of absence from the Foreign Mission Board and worked as a professional counselor in Tucson, Ariz., for two years. I was very happy in my work and making plans for retirement, but God was not through with me yet!" she said.

"There was a need in Kenya, East Africa," Stewart recently recalled, "for a woman with maturity and experience to do women's work."

You guessed it, she accepted the call and went to Kenya where she is currently in language study learning Swahili. "This is the second time around for me! I learned Spanish in Costa Rica in 1973," she said.

Missions sort of caught up to Stewart while she was still in college at University of Southern Mississippi, and it grabbed hold of her while she was in seminary.

"I felt called to missions when I was in college. We went to Glorieta on an old school bus. We visited Spanish and Indian missions and I was impressed by the needs," she remembered. "Unlike many who fight or struggle with a call to missions, I begged God to let me have the privilege of being his missionary."

Later, Stewart served as a summer missionary in Colorado and Arizona. Then she spent a summer on the staff at Camp Garaywa.

"During the WMU Leadership Conference (at Garaywa) I heard the WMU manual taught every day for about eight days. Little did I know that five months later I would be teaching it myself!" Stewart said. Upon graduation from New Orleans Seminary, she went to work for Louisiana WMU.

Such a life of commitment to missions and teaching missions isn't hard to fathom when you know that Stewart's mother, now 90 years old, was always very active in WMU in her church ("I went to my first mission study when I was six weeks old," said Stewart.) Her father was an educator in Lamar County and for many years was principal of Lumberton High School, Stewart's alma mater. Her spiritual birthplace was there at First Church, Lumberton where she was saved and baptized.

For 16 years Stewart felt her call to missions was in WMU work on the home mission field. That call has taken her to South America and back to the United States and now to Kenya where Stewart says there is phenomenal church growth.

"Churches are springing up everywhere and are full. Every Sunday is pack-a-pew Sunday here," said Stewart. "There is a tremendous need to teach and train new Christians. My assignment is to travel over the country developing leadership among the women in the churches."

"Please pray for me that I will become fluent in the language so I can get on with the task that God has called me to do," Stewart asks, adding "it isn't easy to learn a new language at my age! Please pray the Lord will continue to bless me with health and physical strength for the difficult task that lies ahead."

Stewart's commitment to God's call and her enthusiasm for the task ahead are assurances that she both will be blessed and will be a blessing.

Buie lives in Vicksburg.

Pastors can communicate gospel through hymns

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Pastors can communicate the gospel effectively through the poetry of a hymn as well as the prose of a sermon, said a Southern Baptist hymnologist.

Hymn writing should be reclaimed by pastors as a method of expressing theological truths, said Paul Richardson, associate professor of church music at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "People retain hymns better than sermons," he said. "Hymns have form, rhyme, and memorable ideas. They are also undergirded by a tune."

Most current Baptist hymn writers are either church musicians or lay people, Richardson said. This stands in contrast to previous generations when Baptist pastors such as Samuel Stennett ("On Jordan's Stormy Banks") and Robert Robinson ("Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing") were also accomplished hymn writers. The theological reflections of thoughtful pastors could strengthen the theological underpinnings of modern hymnody, he said: "This is a

way for pastors to help congregations remember the theological and biblical concepts they preach."

Writing hymns can be a "good devotional exercise" for ministers, Richardson said, adding that an extensive musical background is not required. He suggested beginning hymn writers start by writing poems that can be sung to familiar tunes.

Among Southern Baptists, Basil Manly Jr., an original faculty member at Southern Seminary, helped pioneer the denomination's hymnic tradition. In a Founders' Day address in February, Richardson noted that the late Old Testament professor composed and collected hymns from the perspective of a "pastoral theologian."

Manly compiled or co-compiled three hymn books, wrote 12 published texts, and composed 13 published tunes. Though he wrote in and used a variety of types of hymns and songs, he "did not want growing Christians to be deprived of the riches of classic hymnody," Richardson said.

Cole writes for Southern Seminary.

Virginians warn of mission changes

By Robert Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Virginia Baptists' denominational relations committee has warned of "ill-conceived efforts" by some trustees of the Foreign Mission Board that may result in "radical change" in the denomination's overseas missions strategy.

"Open challenges to long-established, proven, and effective mission strategies have been published and seriously considered," noted the statement, released Feb. 24 by committee chairman Ray Spence of Richmond.

"These disastrous actions continue to undermine and wreck the confidence and trust relationship that has marked Southern Baptists' cooperative mission endeavor for generations."

However, the committee did not suggest severing ties between the FMB and Virginia Baptists, most of

whom, it said, "are not yet ready to abandon the board as their primary vehicle for doing overseas missions."

"Faithful and productive missionaries continue to merit and to deserve our sacrificial support," the statement said.

The statement cited three examples of FMB trustees' "irresponsible exercise of power:"

— Unwarranted interference by trustees in administration.

"Trustees are policy makers, not administrators. Their increasing effort to blur the line between policy-making and administration threatens the whole ministry of the board by bridling creativity and stifling initiative."

— Abandonment of longstanding missions strategies. Much of the recent debate among trustees has focused on the "indigenous principle" by which the board works with nationals overseas as partners rather than as

subordinates. "Some would turn back the clock and replace these foundational commitments with a neo-colonialistic and culturally imperialistic stance."

— Lack of respect for Parks who announced a new missions emphasis last August to enhance the board's ministries through the end of the century. A trustee subcommittee has been studying the proposal since October. ("Parks' call to renew the reason for being of the Foreign Mission Board has all but been 'passed over' by the trustees.")

It also asked the board to "include all Southern Baptists in the world mission enterprise." Some Southern Baptists have charged that more moderate members of the denomination are being discouraged from applying for missionary service, although trustees deny this.

Dilday writes for RELIGIOUS HERALD, Virginia.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 19, 1992

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

COED MISSIONS CONVENTION WELCOMES JOHN CROYLE



John Croyle

All Youth, grades 7-12, have a special event coming your way! The Coed Missions Convention will feature John Croyle as guest speaker. John is the Executive Director of Big Oak Ranch in Gadsden, Alabama.

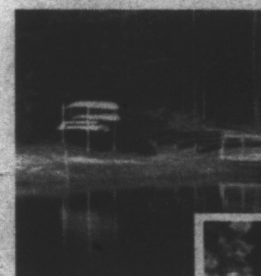
Big Oak Ranch includes three ministries: Big Oak Boys' Ranch, Big Oak Girls' Ranch and Westbrook Christian School. These facilities provide a Christian home and education for children who are abused, neglected, orphaned or in minor trouble with the law.

John was All-American in football and basketball at Gadsden High School and played in the Orange, Sugar and Cotton bowls for the University of Alabama. He has been named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans and has been featured in Reader's Digest, Sports Illustrated and other publications and has been a guest on several television programs.

John's philosophy is: "A hundred years from now it will not matter what kind of house I lived in, the kind of car I drove or how much money I had in the bank, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

The Youth Coed Missions Convention will be held at Mississippi College Coliseum. It begins at 7 p.m. on April 10 and concludes at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 11. The Convention is being sponsored jointly by the WMU and Brotherhood departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and takes the place of MAC, Mississippi Acteens Convention. There is a \$5 per person registration fee that should be sent to the WMU office before April 1. This fee includes Saturday's lunch. There will be a Queen's Banquet at 5:00 p.m. on Friday in the Hall of Fame Room at Mississippi College for girls who have completed Queen level or above in StudiAct.

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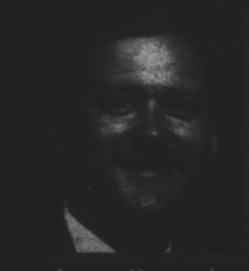


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- personal enrichment...

For registration information please contact:

The Discipleship Training Department • Mississippi Baptist Convention • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205 • 1-601-968-5800

Discipleship Training Leadership Conference

The Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Gulfshore, July 9-11, offers excellent training for leaders and inspiration and renewal in a relaxing environment.

Separate leader sessions will be provided for workers with responsibility for teaching preschoolers, children, youth, adults, and for those in general administration.

Additionally, there will be sessions for associational Discipleship Training directors and directors of missions, directors of church recreation, and Bible Drill leaders.

This year marks the first time we will be offering leadership training for church weekday teachers and directors.

And a MasterBuilder workshop for all persons who have successfully completed MasterLife will also be offered for the first time.

During worship services which are a part of all Gulfshore programs, Waldo Woodcock will be the preacher for this conference. He is Discipleship Training director of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Discipleship Training conference afternoons are devoted to rest and recreation so that participants may return home with energy and enthusiasm for their Discipleship Training responsibilities.

For more information on the program and costs, contact the Discipleship Training Department, MBCB. Reservations must be made directly with Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Summer Musical Opportunities at Gulfshore

• Young Musicians' Camp

June 29-July 3—Guest Clinician: Steve Roddy
Houston Boys Choir, Houston, Texas

• Youth Music Conference

July 11-15—Choral Clinician: Dr. Richard Joiner
Head, Music Department, Mississippi College

• Music Leadership Conferences

July 16-18

Preschool—Charlotte McElroy,
Tupelo, MS

Younger Children—Cyndy Hewell,
New Orleans, LA

Older Children—Mary Ann Tyler,
Roswell, GA

Keyboard—David Lowe, First Baptist,
Amarillo, TX

Darwin Brooks, Harrisburg Baptist Church,
Tupelo, MS

Irene Martin, Music Specialist,
Church Music Department

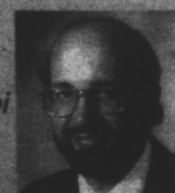
Adult—Dr Robert Burton,
Southwestern Baptist Theological
Seminary (Retired) Ft. Worth, TX
Greg Skipper, Geneva Music Group,
Nashville, TN

Gulfshore Youth Music Conference July 11 - 15, 1992

A three-day, four-night conference which will provide opportunities for 7th-12th grade youth in spiritual growth, choral singing, handbell ringing, and instrumental music.

Choral Clinician:

Dr. Richard Joiner, Head of
Music Department, Mississippi
College



Choral music packets will be purchased at Gulfshore.

Daily Schedule:

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| 8:00 | Morning Watch |
| 8:15 | Choral Rehearsal |
| 9:15 | Classes |
| 10:00 | Break |
| 10:15 | Classes |
| 11:05 | Rehearsal |
| 12:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00 | Planned Recreation |
| 2:30 | Free Time |
| 5:00 | Supper |
| 6:15 | Gulfshore Families |
| 7:15 | Worship |
| 8:15 | Fellowship Time |
| 9:00 | Free Time |

Cost: \$119.00 per person, includes all meals, lodging, insurance and tee-shirt

HOUSE OF

SUNDAY SCHOOL GULFSHORE WEEKENDS 1992

GULFSHORE I
July 30 - Aug. 1

GULFSHORE II
August 6 - 8

GULFSHORE III
September 4 - 5

GULFSHORE IV
September 11 - 12

Each weekend is designed for church staff and all Sunday School leadership.

For more information contact:
Sunday School Department • MSBC • P. O. Box 530 •
Jackson, MS 39205 • 1-601-968-3800

Sunday School Gulfshore Weekends 1992 Faculty

Teachers for the four Sunday School Leadership Conferences are as follows: Preschool: I—Peggy Ward, Paula Stringer, Nell Gully; II—Carolle Green; III—Rachel Coe, Judy Hicks, Amy Morrow; IV—Peg Ward, Nancy Bullock, Jackie Winters;

Children: I—Cindy Lumpkin, Barbara Brown, Rob Sauls; II—Tom McMinn; III—Cathy Jeffcoats, Evelyn Vaughn, Doris Collins; IV—Cathy Jeffcoats, Cindy Sansing, Darlene Koch;

Preschool lab school: III—Barbara Murray, Nancy Bullock, Eva Cain, Toby Denson; IV—Barbara Murray, Dianne Miller, Tammie Sullivan, Peggy Hatchcock.

Children's lab school: III—Betty Davis, Joanne White, Betty Jean Smith, Dianne Crawley, Pete Smith; IV—Betty Davis, Joanne White, Judy Wooley, Pete Smith, Betty Jean Smith.

Youth Bible study: III—Joy Emery; IV—Joy Emery. Adult: I—Wayne Edwards, Jeff Ingram, Keith Williams; II—Wayne Edwards, Jeff Ingram; III—Carolyn Ulmer, Ferris Jordan, Keith Williams; IV—Carolyn Ulmer, Ferris Jordan, Bill Chitwood;

General officers and pastors: I—Bob Mathis; II—Bob Mathis; III—Pete Demoss and Randy Tompkins; IV—Jack Ready and Randy Tompkins.

Youth: I—Ronnie Falvey and Marilyn Bullman; I—Ronnie Falvey and Mark Lott; III—Randy Johnson and Mark Lott; IV—Jack Ready, Randy Johnson, and Marilyn Bullman.

Worship leader: I—Willa Ruth Garlow; II—Art Burcham; III—Gary Berry; IV—Joe McKeever.

Great Commission training leaders: II—Wayne Poling, Randy Tompkins, and Art Burcham.

Music leader: III—Paul Koonce; IV—Dwayne Sims; Pianist: III—Betty Regal; IV—Brenda Sims.

1992 SENIOR ADULT RETREATS

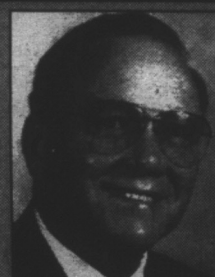
Five Days - Three Days
May 18-22, 25-27, 28-30



•Retreat I
May 18-22

D.F. Norman, Preacher
Director of Pastoral
Ministry and Family
Ministry, Georgia
Baptist Convention

Begin with supper at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, end with breakfast on Friday, total cost \$125.00, including deposit



•Retreat II
May 25-27

Bill Causey, Preacher
Executive Director,
Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board

Begin with supper at 5:30 p.m. on Monday (Leadership Conference at 4:00 p.m.), end with lunch on Wednesday, total cost \$68.00, including deposit



•Retreat III
May 28-30

John Brock, Preacher
Pastor, Ackerman
Baptist Church

Begin with supper at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday (Leadership Conference at 4:00 p.m.), end with lunch on Saturday, total cost \$68.00, including deposit

CONFERENCE TOPICS

- Leadership
- Doctrine of the Bible
(The Bible Study for 5-Day Retreat)
- Jehovah's Witnesses at Your Door
- Health in the Senior Years
- Men Reaching Men
- Women Reaching Women
- Growing through Prayer
- Managing Your Time

DAILY SCHEDULE

- 6:30 Morning Watch
- 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:30 Worship/Bible Study
- 9:45 Conferences
- 12:00 Lunch
- Afternoons Free - Crafts
- 5:30 Supper
- 7:00 Worship
- 8:15 Fellowship

For registration information please contact: The Discipleship Training Department • Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205 • 1-601-968-3800

GULFSHORE YOUTH WEEKS 1992

The year 1992 will be one of Debates, Promises, Denials, Accusations, and Name Calling. In other words, another election year has come. The question we face is "What to Believe?" It is extremely hard to know. Our world is the same way; we find it difficult to know what to believe about it. There is One, however, that we can always trust. He is Jesus. This summer our theme will be **DECISION**. Youth will be challenged to seek God's leadership in all decisions. They will experience first hand how to look to Him for daily guidance in a confused world.

Topics will include:

1. Meeting the candidates (God's campaign to win first place in us)
2. Voting the straight ticket (making consistent decisions)
3. My Attitudes in Decision Making
4. When the Majority is not Right
5. Truth and Consequences

DATES AND SPEAKERS

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| I. June 1-5 | Chuck Pourciau, First, Louisville |
| II. June 5-9 | Gary Permenter, Mt. Vernon, Columbus |
| III. June 9-13 | Gary Permenter, Mt. Vernon, Columbus |
| IV. June 15-19 | Jim Futral, Broadmoor, Jackson |
| V. June 19-23 | Rex Yancy, First, Pascagoula |
| VI. June 23-27 | James Lewis, Fifteenth Avenue, Meridian |



MUSIC PERSONALITIES:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Weeks 1-3 | KYLE and SUSAN MATTHEWS, Nashville, Tenn. |
| Weeks 4-6 | MACK and SHAYLA BLAKE, Rusten, La. |

MISSIONS SPEAKERS

This year we plan to combine both missions and BSU presentations by using several of our campus ministers to present both the BSU program as well as a challenge to youth mission opportunities.

Gulfshore Schedule 1992

| | |
|------------------|--|
| May 18-22 | I Senior Adult Conference (DT) |
| May 23-25 | Single Adult Conference (DT) |
| May 25-27 | II Senior Adult Conference (DT) |
| May 28-30 | III Senior Adult Conference (DT) |
| June 1-5 | I Youth Conference (MBCB) |
| June 5-9 | II Youth Conference (MBCB) |
| June 9-13 | III Youth Conference (MBCB) |
| June 15-19 | IV Youth Conference (MBCB) |
| June 19-23 | V Youth Conference (MBCB) |
| June 23-27 | VI Youth Conference (MBCB) |
| June 29-July 3 | Young Musicians Conference (CM) |
| July 6-9 | Family Enrichment Conference (DT) |
| July 9-11 | Discipleship Training Leadership Conference (DT) |
| | Church Recreation Conference (DT) |
| July 11-15 | Youth Music Conference (CM) |
| July 16-18 | Church Music Leadership Conference (CM) |
| July 18-23 | I Centrifuge* |
| July 23-25 | Bible-Preaching-Administration Conference (CAPM) |
| | Church Weekday Education Conference (CAPM) |
| | Stewardship Conference (STEW) |
| | Church Missions Development Conference (CoMi) |
| | Church Media Library Conference (SS) |
| July 25-30 | II Centrifuge* |
| July 30-August 1 | I Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS) |
| August 1-6 | III Centrifuge* |
| August 6-8 | II Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS) |
| August 8-13 | IV Centrifuge* |
| September 4-5 | III Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS) |
| September 11-12 | IV Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS) |

For further information contact Frank Simmons, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299; phone 601/452-7261.

* For Centrifuge information and reservations, call 615/251-2713 or write CEN-TRIFUGE, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37202.

RESERVATIONS FOR SUMMER CONFERENCES AT GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

Reservation requests are accepted by mail only. In-state requests must be postmarked MARCH 1 or later. Out-of-state requests must be postmarked APRIL 15 or later. Requests postmarked before these dates will be returned. Reservation requests by telephone cannot be accepted.

Deposit

Reservation requests must be accompanied by a deposit of \$30.00 per person, age 2 and up, or \$60.00 per family unit. The deposit applies toward the total conference cost.

Reservation Procedure

- Mail reservation requests, along with proper deposits, on or after April 15, to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299.
- Please allow 2 weeks for a reply to requests. If a conference is filled when your reservation request is received, you will be placed on a waiting list (unless you request otherwise).
- Reservations will not be considered complete until necessary information and deposits are received. A reservation request must include:
 - type of accommodations desired
 - whether a family, individual, or church group
 - number of males, females, couples, children's names and ages
 - name and date of conference
 - church or name, and
 - amount enclosed with request.

- BLOCK RESERVATIONS without names, or number of males and females, and/or the required amount of deposit, are UNACCEPTABLE and will NOT receive confirmation.
- Gulfshore reserves the right to fill each room to capacity, except in the cases of family groups.
- A final list of names should be sent to Gulfshore thirty-one (31) days prior to a group's arrival. Names may be substituted on arrival; however, the proper space can only be assured when substituting the same sex as the person who cancelled.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- In order to receive refund, cancellation notice must be received in writing at Gulfshore as specified below.
- The amount of deposits refunded is as follows:
 - Reservation cancelled 30 days or less prior to conference—None
 - Reservation cancelled 31-60 days prior to conference—One Half
 - Reservation cancelled 61 days or more prior to conference—All

Deposits apply to each person. For group or family reservations in which there are no-shows or later cancellations, the deposit cannot be refunded or allowed to apply against charges for those who come.

Bible/Preaching/Administration Conference July 23-25, 1992

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Registration at 1:30 on Thursday
with first session at 6:30

Adjourn at 12:00 with lunch on Saturday

Small group sessions for:

Pastoral Leadership—

led by Dr. Bailey, Dr. Powell, and Dr. Short

Ministers Wives—

led by Mrs. Betty Dobbs, Clinton

Secretaries—

led by Mrs. Nancee Ratliff, Tupelo

Deacons—

led by Rev. Sheffield

Church Media Library workers—

coordinated by Keith Williams

Stewardship leaders—

coordinated by David Michel

Church Missions Development leaders—

coordinated by Ray Grissett

Youth—

led by Rob Futral, Jackson

Children—

coordinated by Mrs. Karen Buckles, Jackson

Worship services led by:

Dr. Waylon Bailey—

professor, New Orleans Theological Seminary

Dr. Paul Powell—

president, Annuity Board, Dallas

Dr. Mark Short—

executive director, Louisiana Baptist Convention

Rev. Robert Sheffield—

deacon consultant, Baptist Sunday School

Rev. Rick Greene—

minister of music, Daniel Memorial, Jackson

Patsy Alford—

organist, Daniel Memorial, Jackson



Waylon Bailey



Paul Powell



Mark Short



Bob Sheffield

For more information, contact Julius Thompson, 968-3800, extension 3908

Sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, Sunday School,
Stewardship and Cooperative Missions Departments
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"



MASTER BUILDER

MULTIPLYING LEADERS

WORKSHOP GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

July 9-11, 1992
(during Discipleship Training
Conference)

**Thursday 5 p.m.—
Noon Saturday**

Register with Discipleship Training Department,
Jackson, for workshop

Make room and board reservations with
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

HOUSE OF GODS

Letters to the editor

"Forced termination" is a killer

Editor:

Help! There's an epidemic out here and we need an inoculation. It is widely reported that pastors and their families are immune to the side effects of this disease, but that is a myth. Four cases in three months have been reported in this area alone. All ministers involved have followed popular advice and quarantined their families from their congregations. This separation is causing not only physical ailments but emotional ones as well.

Sound crazy? Or have you been exposed and understand the report all too well? The disease referred to is "forced termination" and it's a killer. Those cases mentioned above have very little in common — the pastors range from a doctor in a city church to a bivocational preacher who attends Bible college at night.

Two of the families lived in parsonages with their children. Uprooting all these people was no easy task, changing schools and daily routines, with no promise of income. The strain on marriages — well, we won't speak of that. The grieving process is hard to work through because the reasons for termination are usually vague or unfounded. In these cases, the reasons ranged from "We don't like you any more, Preacher!" to "You just preach the Word too straight."

Fortunately, the other two families lived in homes they owned or rented, but that didn't seem to make the pain of separation any less. One pastor's wife suffered physical ailments due to the stress and incurred medical bills they were unable to pay. Another wife was expecting a baby at the time of her husband's termination. Again, fortunately, the termination of one of

these families came before the sale of their home and a planned move to the church field for the summer.

No prayer support or condolences have been forthcoming to any of the families from anyone or any agency connected with the churches. Termination can be understood when a pastor's moral conduct is questionable, but that has not been so in any of these cited reports. Things seem fine, daily struggles considered. One of the churches had been commended for growth during its pastor's ministry there.

So, where does the blame go? Some say it's the preachers, some say it's the congregations. Surely, each case has different determiners. However, regardless of why or who is to blame, there are some hurting families out here who need a helping hand and some encouragement so each one can make it through this terrible crisis.

Remember — be very careful: forced termination can break out anywhere and there's no inoculation. There's not even any pain medication to ease the symptoms.

Name withheld

"Joy to hear name of Price"

Editor:

Joy filled my heart when I read in the Baptist Record that Nelson Price was allowing his name to be nominated for president of our Southern Baptist Convention. Nelson Price is a native of Osyka with deep roots in the Magnolia State. Like Morris Chapman from Kosciusko, Nelson Price will make Mississippi Baptists proud.

Greg Martin
Long Beach

Children need someone to trust

Editor:

If I had a lot of time and my parents would let me, I would go to children's homes, and talk to the children. They need someone to love them; I think I would enjoy the company and feel good about helping them. They have so many problems, and they don't have anyone to talk to or discuss their problems with. Sure they have people who take care of their physical needs but the children need someone they can trust and tell their problems to, someone who isn't always at the home with them.

I went to this children's home in Alabama last summer with a group of Centrifuge, a Baptist youth camp, at Mobile College.

I enjoyed listening to all of the children, and a person wouldn't believe the problems those children had. They really opened up to me. I asked them why they hadn't spoken to their caretakers. They told me that the people who watch over them don't care as much about them.

There was this one particular boy I spoke to. He told me he didn't go to the church that they had on campus, because a lot of kids make fun of him. I explained to him that he would have to ignore his critics and that God was watching over him.

I pointed out that if he would learn more about God and ask him as his personal Savior, then he would be better off than those boys who were lost.

I received a letter three months later, and he's been going to church, and he has asked Jesus into his heart. I am so glad I had a chance to go. I was the happiest person when I found out that he had been saved. As soon as I received his letter, I was so thrilled. I decided then that if I ever had the chance to do it again, I would!!!!

Carrie Stamper
Columbus

"The fundamentalists have succeeded," says Criswell

By Guy Henderson

W. A. Criswell, pastor of First, Dallas, has declared Baptists have overcome liberals. If this is the case, we have cause to rejoice. Speaking recently in Saks, Ala., Criswell said, "The liberals now are a very small minority. Fundamentalists finally succeeded in purging liberals from positions of power in the SBC."

Criswell was in Alabama to lecture at the Beeson School of Theology at Samford University in early February. "We (Southern Baptists) were beginning to die, but there is hope since there is a conservative rising, we may have a chance to grow." The Anniston (Ala.) Star reported the 83-year-old popular pastor as saying, "The conservative takeover is now reaching its 12th year, and the trustees placed on the board by conservative presidents have largely succeeded in removing 'liberals' from Southern Baptist universities."

The loss of Richmond, Wake Forest, and Furman was terrible, but the loss of Baylor University after a bitter court battle was the one that hurt the most. Baptists have invested \$750 million in the school, according to

Criswell. He apparently felt more secure about Samford's Beeson School of Theology. "It's on the conservative side," he said.

Criswell believes that a small minority of liberals has been able to take away the universities because "they are politically inclined." Conservatives do not like to dabble in politics: "I take no part in the political aspect of the Convention, I'm too busy winning souls," he said.

Concerning Criswell Institute, he mentioned the board of trustees had dismissed its president, Paige Patterson, saying he was spending too much time working with the Convention. He was later restored but Criswell said that will not be permanent. "Paige... was gone all the time," he explained. "They felt like they needed someone there to build the school... They have given him five months."

Most of Criswell's comments were made in an interview with Bill Finch of the Anniston Star. Criswell spoke later in Saks' First Baptist Church to a crowd of 600 people.

Quayles visit Shreveport

By Lynn Clayton

SHREVEPORT, La. (ABP) — Visitors' cards filled out and dropped into the offering plates at Baptist churches are always prized by the host congregations, but two such cards dropped into the offering plate at First Church of Shreveport, La., may become collectors' items.

Vice President and Mrs. Dan Quayle worshiped with First Church on Sunday, March 8. Accompanying the Quayles were Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and president-elect of the SBC Executive Committee, and his wife Jodie, along with White House staff members and local political leaders.

According to pastor Jon Stubblefield, the congregation simply tried to provide "an atmosphere so they could worship."

The Quayles' visit came as a response to an invitation issued by Stubblefield.

Reflecting on the event, Stubblefield said Quayle was "obviously campaigning in Shreveport" before the Super Tuesday primary balloting.

"We did not want First Church to be used as a place for a political forum," Stubblefield said. "But, just like everyone else, they (the Quayles) deserve a place to worship. According to what he told the congregation, he and Mrs. Quayle experienced worship."

"I didn't consider it to be political whatsoever," Chapman said.

Chapman continues as pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, until just before the Southern Baptist Convention in June when he completes his term as SBC president and begins his duties as executive committee president.

"I had supposed that there would be other guests on the plane," Chapman said of traveling with the Quayles. "We discovered we were the only guests of the vice president on the flight."

"We were honored that he thought about us," Chapman said. "We were grateful for the invitation. I do not consider it to be unusual. This is not the first visit we have had with him."

"I'm always conscious that I represent all Southern Baptists," Chapman said. "I felt it would be an opportunity to get to know the vice president

better, to commend him for their strong, very open Christian witness, to commend them for having a strong commitment to strong family values."

Clayton is editor of the Louisiana BAPTIST MESSAGE.

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NEEDED: Mature Summer CAMP DIRECTOR (male or female or couple to serve as director/counselor). Five weeks of camp July 6-August 7. Minimum requirements — 1 year college, 21 years old. Camping experience helpful, but not necessary. Camp located in Charleston area. Send cover letter and resume to David Crowe, Route 1, Box 27-A, Enis, MS 38927. (601) 623-7910. Must be received by April 1.

AUTOMOBILE FOR SALE: '90 Cadillac Sedan DeVille, red clear coat, white carriage roof, gold-plated package, airbags, digital data; all leather interior, all power control, coaxial speakers, equalizers AM/FM stereo, approximately 40,000 miles, V-8 super engine, superior comfort ride/condition. Price \$20,791.87 — Call (601) 856-3555.

POND STOCKERS: ALBINO, Channel and Blue Catfish, Grass Carp, Bream: Coppertnose, Shell-cracker, Bluegill, super and hybrid. Call in order. Phone (601) 267-9859. Delivery date: Saturday, March 21. George County Co-op 6:30-7:30 a.m.; George and Jackson County Line 6:30 South 8-8:30; Escatawpa Siding 9-9:30; Gautier and Vancleave Road Exit North 10:30-11; Vancleave Health Mart 11:30-12; Bendale Super Store 12:30-1; McClain Big K 1:30-2; Tuckers Crossing M & S Grocery 3-3:30; Laurel Jones Farm Supply 4-4:30; Stringer Red Apple 5:30-6; Bay Springs Stockyard 6:30-7.

Hate-crime laws threaten freedom

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ABP) — Laws against hate crimes may prevent churches from speaking against homosexuality, said Beverly LaHaye, founder and president of Concerned Women for America.

LaHaye, a member of Montrose Church in Rockville, Md., spoke at the Christian Life Commission seminar in Washington, D.C., March 2-4.

"I can see the road signs that... hate-crime laws will one day affect the freedom of speech that we have in churches to teach what the Bible says about homosexuality," she predicted. "We dare not let that happen. We dare not let them silence us from speaking the truth."

Hate-crime laws, which are supported by homosexual-rights groups, are intended to protect Jews, gays, and others from hate-inspired criminal activity. LaHaye suggested such laws could be used to keep Christians from condemning homosexuality as immoral.

The Baptist laywoman expressed her resolve in fighting the homosexual agenda during a panel discussion. "Some people don't like to talk about it," she said. "We are losing our nation to the homosexual movement."

She said Christians, who have become desensitized to the moral breakdown that the homosexual agenda represents, need to speak out in order to protect their children from the homosexual lifestyle.

"We are to stand up for biblical principles," she admonished. "If we do not do it, who in the world is going to do it? It's our responsibility."

LaHaye cited areas where she said the homosexual agenda has crept in:

— Schools. In Seattle, Wash., homosexuals were allowed to pass out packages in the schools which graphically explained homosexual practices, she said.

— Government. A homosexual-rights bill was passed in Seattle, Wash., which will give homosexuals opportunities to "aggressively move in to recruit your young people," she said. In Washington, D.C., the city council approved health benefits for couples living together, including same sex couples, she said.

— Political parties. Homosexuals have moved into the democratic and Republican parties, she asserted.

"There will come a day when we're going to look back and say 'Look how they've taken over the parties, the government.'"

In another seminar address, LaHaye said Christians can make a difference in government. The key is to become involved in the political process, she said.

LaHaye said the birth of the United States was rooted in Christianity but that the nation is straying from its founding principles. "It's up to us to restore Christian values," she said.

She stressed that Christians can turn the country around by getting church members to vote. She also advocated writing letters to legislators, volunteering for campaigns, running for office and praying for officials as ways of influencing the political process.

Zimbabwe needs missions couple

A husband and wife team is urgently needed to go to Zimbabwe for two years as part of the Mississippi-Zimbabwe Partnership to assist with both short and long term needs for food.

The Agricultural Missions Fellowship of the Mississippi Brotherhood has been planning with the Zimbabwe Mission to send in the summer of 1992 a volunteer husband and wife team for a two-year agricultural project.

Missionary Ron Langston has asked if the Mississippi sponsored husband and wife can be in Zimbabwe by the end of May, 1992.

A couple interested in the opportunity to meet these needs, may contact Bill Hardy, Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership, Baptist Building, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (phone 968-3800).



First Church, Gautier, honored its founding pastor, J. Lester Reeves, as part of a 50th anniversary emphasis. Reeves preached the morning message, Feb. 16. Members of the Reeves family who were present are pictured: front row, Doug and Jan Hagan, Krista Hagan, Gina VanHoozer, Mrs. Lester (Mable) Reeves, Tara Hagan, Lester Reeves; second row, Bob Richardson, Barry Landrum Jr., Mike VanHoozer, Barry Landrum, Charlotte Landrum, Beatrice Richardson, Elvyn Reeves, Joy Reeves, Sharon Pilgrim, Carol Ballard, Laura and Ronald Bond. Billy R. Williams is current pastor.

First, Gautier, celebrates church's 50th anniversary

A banquet, "Something Old — Something New," with a crowd of 400 was held Feb. 15. The program included silent movies from the past, "50 years of music," "A Little Bit of Country," "It was the Best of Times" in a slide presentation, patriotic tribute — a salute to the Armed Forces, and recognition of special guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Reeves, with

their family and the charter members, added to the program both old and new memories.

First Church of Gautier honored J. Lester Reeves, its founding pastor, Feb. 16, as part of its 50th anniversary celebration. The church was founded in 1942. Reeves pastored there eight years — 1942-1950.

Billy R. Williams has served as pastor for 13 years — 1978 to present.

Scholarship is established at MC in honor of Wyatt R. Hunter

A scholarship honoring Wyatt R. Hunter for his many years of outstanding service and commitment to the ministry has been established at Mississippi College.

Hunter was born Feb. 24, 1902 in Mashulaville. He was graduated from Noxubee County High School in 1918, and Mississippi College in 1922, and was ordained to the ministry in 1934. After earning a master of theology degree in 1937 from Southern Seminary, Louisville, he was honored with a doctor of divinity degree from Mississippi College in 1944.

In 1938 he became the pastor of First Church of McComb where he served for 30 years until his retirement, and then was their pastor emeritus until his death Feb. 7, 1992. The same year he went to McComb he married Elois Tolar of Leland, who

survives him along with a son and two daughters.

As an active community leader, he served as president of the McComb Rotary Club and the Pike County United Way, as well as in other capacities. Among his honors were the Oliver Emmerich Award for community service from the Pike County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Foundation; the first recipient of the McComb Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award; Mississippi College's Service to Humanity Award; and Rotary Paul Harris Fellow.

Contributions to the scholarship may be sent to Mississippi College, Attn: Rory Lee, P. O. Box 4005, Clinton, MS 39058. They are tax-deductible.

Revival dates

New Prospect Church, Olive Branch (Northwest): March 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. nightly; Chuck Quarles, preaching; Ralph Thomason, music; Joe T. Lusby, pastor.

Pelahatchie Church (Rankin): March 29-April 2; Gary M. Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Lee Hinson, Pelahatchie Church, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; David Briscoe, pastor.

Utica Church, Utica: April 10-12; 7 p.m. nightly; Felix Snipes, Atlanta, Ga., evangelist; John Ed Snell, pastor.

New Hope Church, Gulfport: April 5-9; W. L. Chapuis, pastor, New Hope Church, evangelist; Cliff Allred, Birmingham, Ala., music; services, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.

First Church, Kosciusko: March 2-25; Sunday, 7:30 a.m., men's prayer breakfast, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; worship; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Wed., 11:30 a.m., senior adult luncheon; James M. Richardson, FBC, Madison, evangelist; Myron Burris, Parkway Church, Natchez, music; Barry C. Corbett, pastor.

Swiftwater Church, Greenville: March 22-27; 7 p.m.; different area ministers bringing messages each night; Gene Foshee, pastor.

Shubuta Church, Shubuta: March 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Phil Cooper, Ohio, evangelist; music by Shubuta choir; Timothy D. Myers, pastor.

New Zion Church, Crystal Springs: March 22-25; Malcolm Pinion, Mantee Church, Houston, evangelist; services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Leroy J. Brewer, Jr., pastor.

Briar Hill Church, Florence: March 29-April 2; services 10:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.; Bill Causey, Executive Director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and former pastor, Parkway Church, Jackson, evangelist; Billy Causey, minister of music, Raymond Church, Raymond, music; Wilson Winstead, pastor; covered dish lunch on Sunday.

County Line Church, Mendenhall: March 22-25; Dexter Truesdale, Flag Chapel Church, Clinton, evangelist; Tim Flebbe, Providence Church, Pearl, music; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Del Gann, pastor.

Tommy Melton dies

Tommy Melton 32, of Huntsville, Ala., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Melton of Newton, died March 12 in Birmingham, Ala. Services were held March 15 at University Baptist Church in Huntsville.

Other survivors include wife, Ellen; four sons; one sister, Susan of Great Falls, Mont.; and grandfather, C. H. Melton of Jackson.

Charles Melton, former director of missions for Newton Association, is on the faculty of Clarke College.

Yates named pastor emeritus

First Church, Yazoo City, has named James F. (Jim) Yates pastor emeritus. The action was taken at a

regular business meeting of the church on March 11, following the recommendation of the Deacons' Council. Yates retired as pastor of the Yazoo City congregation in December 1991. He had served as the church's pastor for more than 30 years.

Yates currently serves on the Board of Trustees at William Carey College. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was recently appointed to a four-year term on the School Board of the Yazoo City Public Schools.

Also he is interim pastor of First Church, Indianola. He and his wife, Joy, continue to live in Yazoo City.

ROMANIANS

From page 3

Africa, said FMB staff will decide how to reallocate the \$20,000 to other theological needs. He said he anticipates the staff will continue to work with Romania Baptists concerning their future needs.

In February the board's trustees voted to divide the \$365,000 among eight Baptist seminaries in Bulgaria (\$100,000), Estonia (\$50,000), Ukraine (\$50,000 in Kiev and \$50,000 in Odessa), Russia (\$50,000), Latvia (\$45,000) and Romania (\$10,000 in Bucharest, and \$10,000 in Oradea). The work in Oradea received an earlier \$50,000 from the FMB for construction of the Second Baptist Church, which sponsors the seminary there.

Creswell and Crabb writes for FMB.

COTHEN

From page 3

to sign it as well. Trustees agreed. Cothen leaves New Orleans Seminary after 18 years of service, the last 10 of which were spent as vice president for academic affairs.

Cothen received two degrees from New Orleans Seminary before joining the faculty in 1968. He left in 1971 for the full-time pastorate, returning in 1977 to serve as professor of communications. He assumed his vice presidential post in 1982.

Smith succeeds Cothen at the request of Leavell. Smith will have the option of returning to a teaching role when Leavell retires, the president explained.

Thompson is associate editor of Louisiana BAPTIST MESSAGE.

The first B.Y.P.U. in Mississippi was organized in the First Baptist Church of Natchez. Rev. Vernon H. Cowsert was the pastor.

Just for the Record



Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven, held a recognition service for its RAs and GAs portraying special missionaries. Pictured is a portion of both groups and their leaders. Sammy J. McDonald is pastor.

SWBTS trustees elect chairman, approve record budget

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Trustees of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, elected a new chairman, approved a record \$21.2 million budget and accepted a report from an ad hoc committee assigned to study the seminary's relationship to women in ministry.

Trustees, meeting March 10, elected Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Church in Houston, as chairman to succeed Jim Bolton who resigned from the board. Re-elected were Pat Campbell, St. Charles, Mo., vice chairman and T. Bob Davis, Dallas, secretary.

Three new faculty members were elected by the board. All three will serve in the school of theology. Elected were Alan Brehm, assistant professor of New Testament; Rick Johnson, associate professor of Old Testament; and Jeff Pool, assistant

professor of systematic theology.

Dillard announced the appointment of Millard Erickson as research professor of theology. Erickson, dean of Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., since 1984, will begin his responsibilities in the fall semester. Dillard described Erickson as one of the leading Baptist and evangelical theologians in the world.

Retiring Tulsa Pastor Warren Hultgren has been appointed as an adjunct professor at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for the 1992-93 school year.

Hultgren, who was appointed by Southwestern President Russell Dillard, will be the first teacher to occupy the Warren Hultgren Chair of Pastoral Counseling at the seminary. The chair is being funded by friends of Hultgren to honor his 35 years as pastor of First Church, Tulsa, Okla.

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Dobson featured in ACTS' "Family Enrichment Series"

FORT WORTH, TEXAS — James Dobson will join forces with the American Christian Television System (ACTS) to introduce a new television series designed to prepare American families to combat forces that are tearing them apart, according to Deborah Little, national marketing director for ACTS.

The Family Enrichment series, which premieres the week of March 30-Apr. 3 at 9 p.m. CST, is made up of nightly seminars to be aired during the first week of each month.

Future guest hosts for the Family Enrichment series will include D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Kay Arthur, author of *How Can I Live?*, Chattanooga, Tenn.

The audience for the first Family Enrichment seminar answer session will include listeners to approximate-

ly 300 radio stations that make up the Moody Broadcasting Network, a ministry of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Ill., as well as viewers of the more than 600 ACTS cable television affiliates throughout the U.S. The simulcast is the first of its kind for both ACTS and the Moody Broadcasting Network.

Dobson, founder and president of Focus on the Family, will feature his popular seminars, *Molder of Dreams*, on Monday and Tuesday, Mar. 30 and 31, and *Children at Risk* on Wednesday and Thursday, Apr. 1 and 2.

"On Friday, Apr. 3, Dobson will be featured live in our Fort Worth studios to answer questions from the viewing audience," Deborah Little continued. "Study materials for the entire week's programs will be available prior to the premier by dialing 1-800-641-1221."

46 International Service Corps personnel assigned to jobs

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board, SBC, has assigned 46 people to work overseas through the International Service Corps (ISC).

Three have Mississippi ties. Included in that number are 22 Southern Baptists who are attending an orientation March 13-28 at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

The new ISC group includes evangelism workers, agriculture workers, business administrators, construction workers, and a language student. Their assignments will last for six months or two years. Thirty-four people are assigned as married couples.

Thirteen workers, including five couples, have been assigned to work through Cooperative Service International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

Mississippians appointed: Elizabeth Marble: Most recently employed as secretary at East Clairemont Southern Baptist Church, San Diego, Calif. She was a Southern Baptist missionary in Ecuador. Current address: 8445 Westmore Road, #96.

Better Bible Teaching continues

The series of Better Bible Teaching Conferences continues on Mar. 20-21 at First Church, Jackson; and Mar. 27-28 at First Church, Gulfport.

Both meetings begin at 6:45 on Friday evening and conclude at 11:50 the next morning.

The conferences will help teachers learn how to use principles of biblical interpretation as they prepare. And participants will get help in learning how to improve teaching that relates the learner and the passage to one another.

After a general session on the challenge of better Bible teaching, there will be age group sessions.

John McCall, head of the Bible department at Mississippi College, will lead pastors, Sunday School directors, and teaching improvement leaders in "Helping Teachers Get the Most out of Bible Preparation."

There will be sessions for youth and adult levels in Bible Book curriculum, for both youth and adult in Life and Work curriculum, for adult, youth and children in Convention Uniform curriculum, for children's Foundation materials, and for preschool Foundation and Uniform series.

San Diego, Calif. 92126. Education: Blue Mountain (Miss.) College, B.A. '43. Church: East Clairemont Southern Baptist. Hometown: San Diego. Assigned as an administrative assistant in Spain for two years. She is daughter of Floy Jacob, retired missionary to China, who lives at West Point, Miss.

Gordon Shamburger Jr.: Most recently employed as director of pastoral care at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, Miss. Current address: 7140 Old Canton Road, Ridgeland, Miss. 39157. Education: Mississippi College, Clinton, B.A. '49, M.Ed. '73; New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, B.D. '52, M.R.E. '55. Church: Calvary, Jackson. Hometown: Meridian, Miss. Assigned as a pastor in Brazil for one year.

Dorothy (Mrs. Gordon) Shamburger: Most recently employed as a teacher with Jackson Municipal Separate School District, Jackson, Miss. Current address: 7140 Old Canton Road, Ridgeland, Miss. 39157. Education: Mississippi College, Clinton, B.A. '49, M.Ed. '74. Church: Calvary, Jackson. Hometown: Meridian, Miss. Assigned to church and home outreach ministry in Brazil for one year.

Staff changes

First Church of Delisle, Pass Christian, has called Gerald H. Walker as pastor, effective March 8. His previous place of service was Lizana Church, Gulfport. A native of Gulfport, he received his education at University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary.

New Hope Church, Gulfport, has called W. Lynn Chapuis as pastor, effective Feb. 2. He has served as pastor to two churches in Jackson County and other Baptist churches of the state during his 20 year ministry. He is a graduate of Luther Rice Seminary and the Southern Baptist Center for Biblical Studies.



Chapuis

Names in the news

Malinda Dawn Mallory of Shannon has been awarded the Suzanne Nobles Memorial Scholarship at Mississippi College for the current school year according to Tom Prather, director of financial aid.



Mallory is a chemistry major in the premedical program. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Mallory of Shannon.

Jerald L. Welch of Greenwood has been awarded The T. M. Hederman, III Memorial Scholarship to Mississippi College for the current school year according to Tom Prather, director of financial aid.



Welch is a freshman in the English major. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerald Welch of Greenwood.

FELLOWSHIP

From page 3

for mission partnership was critical for the future of the Fellowship's work in Europe.

The statement was drafted by leaders of 22 national Baptist unions in Europe, who met in Dorfweil, Germany, in January. It is a response to the FMB's defunding of the Ruschlikon seminary, which is owned by the European Baptist Federation.

The European leaders said they consider the principles to be essential for any "real partnership" in missions and asked the FMB for response.

Trustees of the FMB did not respond to the statement specifically but said they were open to discussing future relationships with the Europeans.

"The Foreign Mission Board absolutely gave the back of their hand to the Dorfweil statement," said Hewett, pastor of First Church of Asheville, N.C.

The five principles for partnership call for mutual respect and courtesy, spiritual freedom that recognizes diversity, moral integrity that honors commitments made, genuine con-

sultation that aims at mutual consent, and reciprocal sharing "in which the partners learn, work, and grow together."

"What we're saying is those principles are our principles," Hewett said before the statement was adopted unanimously by the council.

"We think it is very important that we affirm this commitment," said Jean Bond of Mississippi, a former FMB missionary and co-chairperson of the global missions group. "The Europeans said to us, 'We are interested in the partnership and in knowing what you feel about these principles.'"

In other action:

Council members heard they can expect to take in \$6.9 million during 1992 in support of the Fellowship's efforts. The projection is based on receipts for January and February. However, about \$5 million of that amount is budgeted to go to traditional Southern Baptist agencies, leaving about \$1.8 million for Fellowship programs.

The council took the first steps toward providing endorsement to chaplains serving in civilian settings. Warner is editor of ABP.

RIVER

From page 3

said that he had not brought his nine-year old son Joshua for lack of a babysitter.

DeBold said that Joshua had asked where Dad was going. When DeBold explained that he was going to hear about ministry on the Mississippi River, Joshua suggested that they needed a riverboat or at least a big boat to go along the river with ministry.

The group expanded on the idea. Someone noted they could use something like a Dixieland gospel band. Such a boat could tie off along the river with VBS in the morning, literacy training in the afternoon, and revival services at night.

Little then said that only two weeks earlier he had had a visitor in his office saying that they knew of someone getting ready to put a boat in the river for ministry — that Little had told no one about the conversation beforehand.

Said Farley, "A lot of people have been left behind by the changes in our society. They need hope lifted up and Christ glorified." The river ministry convocation may be the beginning of hope for many.

Griffith will retire

ATLANTA (BP) — James N. Griffith, executive director-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention since 1981, has announced his intention to retire from that office effective March 15, 1993.

Griffith, 66, said he was resisting those urging him to remain until mandatory retirement at the end of 1994 because "I do not feel led of God to do this."

In his comments, Griffith expressed appreciation to Georgia Baptists for "allowing me the privilege of serving in what has been the most challenging time in the history of our convention. The greatness of Georgia Baptists is clearly indicated by the fact that almost without exception, progress has been made in every area of our work."

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LIFE AND WORK

Accountable to God



By Lola M. Autry
Matthew 25:14-30

Years ago when my husband and his brother were boys their preacher-farmer father gave them the task of planting several rows of peas. They soon tired of the job and decided to dump the remainder of seeds not planted at the end of a row. Covering them with soil, they assured each other their father would never know. But he did, and the clump of pea plants that came up at the end of that garden row was their accuser. God gives us tasks and services to take care of for him. How we handle these is what we want to discuss in this lesson.

The day of accounting (v. 19). In the parable told by Jesus three men had been given money to care for while their master was away. Upon the master's return they were called to give a report of their use of his money. In this parable Jesus is teaching about responsibility and faithfulness.

The report and reward of the faithful slave (vv. 20-21). The slave owner called to himself the man to whom he had entrusted the largest amount. The conversation might have gone something like this: "Master, you gave me five talents. I have increased this amount to ten talents." (One talent weighed approximately 93 3/4 pounds of silver). His lord's reply: "You've been good and faithful. I'll put you in charge of many things. We will be joyous together."

The report and chastisement of the unfaithful slave (vv. 24-25). The second man who had been given a talent also had doubled his. To him, his lord said the same things that were said to the first slave. The third approached his master in an entirely different way. Notice his somewhat sure, antagonistic approach as he accused his lord of being a hard man, making others do the work for him and then taking the rewards of the work they had done. He then confessed that he was afraid and hid the talent lest something happen to it. He was trying to excuse himself for his lack of responsibility by putting the blame on someone else.

The punishment of the unfaithful slave (vv. 26-30). The master recognized the slave for what he was: a wicked, slothful, and irresponsible man. The talent was taken from the servant and given to the first man. Verse 29 states, "For unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." The unprofitable servant was cast into outer darkness.

It is not enough not to do hurt. We must also do good. How we use the mental, physical, and material blessings with which God has supplied us show the kind of servants of the King that we are. What excuses do we offer for our lack of use of the talents he has entrusted to us. Too busy? Afraid? Not interested? "If I have a talent I've never found out what it was!" Other excuses?

If you are guilty of failing at the task given you by our Lord, try this: Make a list of everything you have been led by the Lord to do, and every way you have been called by him to serve. Read them aloud.

Now, make a list of obedience. Have you been a good and faithful servant? James 3:13 says, "Show me thy faith by thy works." We will not be judged on how much we do, but on how good and faithful we have been with that which he entrusted to us. If you carry your arm in a sling for a year, never using or exercising it, you will lose use of that arm. It will waste away. God's talents, unused, will be lost; those used will be increased and strengthened.

Autry lives in Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church, Benton County.

BIBLE BOOK

Flight from God's call



By Charles Nestor
Jonah 1:1-5a, 9-11, 15-2:3,10

God's people were slow, if not rebellious, in fulfilling his command to take the message of salvation to all people and accept all who respond as brothers of the faith. The book of Jonah provides enlightenment and affirmation of God's love for all nations.

I. Jonah's call and flight (1:1-3). The word "now" is indicative that this may be a continuation of an earlier statement. Some think the book relates to the book of Obadiah. Obadiah spoke of the day of the Lord when wicked nations would be destroyed, but believers would be brought into God's kingdom. Jonah shows that God's compassionate desire is that even the wicked Ninevites be saved. He takes action through Jonah to see that accomplished. The information came to Jonah from God.

Some facts about Jonah are recorded in 2 Kings 14:25. He was of the Northern Kingdom and lived in a town close to Nazareth. He proclaimed the message of God that political expansion and peace were to come to the Northern Kingdom through Jeroboam II. Israel had reached the point of moral bankruptcy. Jonah's name means "dove." It is an expression of gentleness, beauty, flight, mourning, and peace. The content of God's charge to Jonah was that he preach judgment to Nineveh. This capital city of the Assyrian empire was a great city. The message God gave Jonah was threatening: "They will be overthrown in forty days unless they repent." God would not tolerate their wickedness any longer. Their evil acts bore fruit in terms of misery, distress, and injury. Their only chance was to repent.

Now observe what this man of God did. He tried to get away because he was not in agreement with what God was doing. Jonah did not like the Ninevites, and they were enemies of Israel. Therefore, he was not interested in them being saved. Our recent Home Missions emphasis indicates there are 174 million unsaved people in America. Are there any of them you would not want to see saved? God loves them all. We are to be like-minded.

II. The storm at sea (1:4-5a, 9-10). Jonah ran from God. He booked passage on a boat which was going away from Nineveh. What occurs is a timely reminder to all. You can't run from God and get by with it. It doesn't make any difference how far you run. God knows where you are. God caused a severe storm to develop. The ship's crew was scared. They identified Jonah as the problem. Isn't it interesting? You can't hide from God, regardless of how hard you try. The sailors could not understand how Jonah could fear the God of heaven and not want to carry out his will. Christians must always be aware that the world is watching our walk. It doesn't make sense to confess Christ as Savior and not follow his will in daily living. People will notice.

III. Jonah thrown overboard (1:11, 15-16). Jonah had identified himself as a servant of God, so the sailors asked him what they should do to satisfy God. Jonah tells them to throw him overboard. By doing so, he affirms God's hand in the storm, acknowledges his guilt, identifies the divine punishment, and shows willingness to give himself to save the sailors. It's interesting Jonah showed such love for foreign sailors but was not willing to love the Assyrians into God's kingdom. The sailors followed his suggestion.

IV. Jonah swallowed by the great fish (1:17). The point is not an attempt to explain the fish and how this could happen; God is at work. The miracle is that God prepared the fish at the right time. The message is that God acted again to bring Jonah to share his love with the Ninevites. It's a reminder that God's time is always right. He will not make mistakes with our lives.

V. Jonah's prayer (2:1-3). The greatest miracle of this story might be that God was able to produce a spirit of prayer in Jonah. Jonah was at the point of death. Three days in the stomach of a fish would probably get anyone's attention. There are times when God must take us to the lowest point in order to get our attention. What a sad commentary of human life!

VI. God rescues Jonah (2:10). God does not give up. He acts again in an attempt to make Jonah a willing missionary to Nineveh. God caused the fish to spit Jonah out on the coast of Palestine near Joppa. Now Jonah was willing to obey the voice of God. Sometimes it is necessary for us to reach the point of helplessness in order for us to be willing to obey God. This study should prompt us to renew our commitment to God.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

UNIFORM

Jesus meets needs



By Bobby Williamson
Mark 7:24-37

There is great news for the church! We are on the threshold of great opportunities to recapture one of the primary functions of the church. As the government continues its cutbacks in social programs, it is time for the church to arise and reclaim one of its primary ministries: meeting the needs of others. For too long we have counted on the government to meet the needs of the elderly, the poor, the homeless, and others, and now as the government makes major changes, we, too, must refocus our efforts. We must not only meet these needs, but we must meet them in the spirit of Christ.

I. Jesus heals the Syrophenician woman's daughter (7:24-30).

In the verses of our lesson this week we find Jesus going to the area of Tyre and Sidon trying to avoid attention. It is obvious that he could not go unnoticed. At this point Christ was too well known to be incognito. According to one commentator, "He could not be hid; for, though a candle may be put under a bushel, the sun cannot. Neither can Jesus be hidden."

In verses 25-26 the Syrophenician woman came to Jesus and asked that he cast a demon out of her daughter. Here we must define "the devil" as a demon, for as Matthew writes, "she was badly demonized."

There is another point here which must not go unnoticed. We find a Gentile asking help from a Jew. This should assure any of us that we can certainly bring our requests to Jesus.

In the following verses we find what seems to be a reluctance from Jesus to grant the woman's request. Verse 23 says, "but he answered not a word." There are several reasons Jesus might have reacted in such a manner. It could be that his reason for keeping silence was to try and whet her faith, patience, and perseverance. It apparently had the desired effect. "She cried after them," shows he was already on his way from the place.

Verse 27 gives us Jesus' answer to the woman's request. He said that the children's bread was to be given to them, not thrown to the dogs.

What was he saying? He was saying let the Jews have all the miracles that are wrought for them, and let not that which was intended for them be thrown to those who are not a part of God's family. But here Jesus also intimates that there was mercy in reserve for the Gentiles. The woman said that even the dogs were given crumbs, and Jesus granted her request.

II. Jesus heals the man unable to hear or speak (7:31-35).

Here we find Jesus returning to the Sea of Galilee, where he healed a man who was unable to hear and who had a speech impediment. It should not surprise us that once again Jesus went to the very heart of the matter, taking people where they were, and meeting their needs. This man could not speak or hear, and Jesus met his needs.

Jesus has a concern to meet our needs today. In verse 36 Jesus charged the people not to publicize the healing miracle, but they spread the news. What does this say to us? Primarily it says that we should not seek publicity when God uses us to meet the needs of people. We should also note that the spreading of the news of Jesus' miraculous act should motivate all of us to share the good news of Christ. In verse 37 we find that the people were astonished and affirmed that Jesus did all things well.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. This should affirm to each of us that he continues to do his excellent work in believers' lives.

In Sunday School this week let us each make a list of people's needs that we can meet, and work toward that end. We must, in the spirit of Christ, rise to the occasion and meet the needs of a lost and dying world.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.



THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mother of Christine Hollingsworth
Mrs. Doris M. Archer
Mrs. Alice Holmes
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Mr. & Mrs. Amos V. Collins
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Faye Yancy Britt
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Audie Marshall
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Patrick Crawford Norman
Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Knight
Mr. & Mrs. Will Polk
Mrs. Olive Wade
Roger Nunnery
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.

Mrs. Ila Mae O'Keefe
Mr. & Mrs. F. O. Alldread
Catherine O. Overstreet
Mrs. Modene Davis
Dr. & Mrs. Clyde A. Watkins
Mr. Jim Ray Owen
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Mr. Jackie Pannel
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VIDEO TAPE

"Does Anybody Love the Children?"

Available for church use April 1 in your Director of Missions Office. Perfect to view with your WMU, BYW, Brotherhood, Sunday School or for your church family to view together. An 8-minute concise informational video describing the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village.

Contact your Director of Missions or The Baptist Children's Village to reserve a copy to use with your group.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Elephants are special

By Lucille W. Bailey

Old and young alike enjoy going to the zoo and feeding peanuts to the elephants. Today elephants are used chiefly for exhibition purposes; however, thousands of years ago, elephants were used in fighting wars.

Even though there are

only two kinds of elephants, the Indian elephant

and the African elephant, the next time you go to the zoo or the circus you should take a good look at the elephant and see how God made it so special.

An elephant's trunk is the most special part of the animal. The trunk is about six feet long and

weighs about 300 pounds. The trunk is used to guide the baby elephant along the trail. Yet the elephant can use it to lift as much as a ton. The ele-

phant can use the trunk to pick up a peanut, drink, smell, or shoot a stream of water. The trunk is used as a hand, an arm, a nose, or lips. We can learn a lesson of cleanliness from the elephant by noting that he takes a bath every morning.

Another thing that God did for the elephant was to supply a

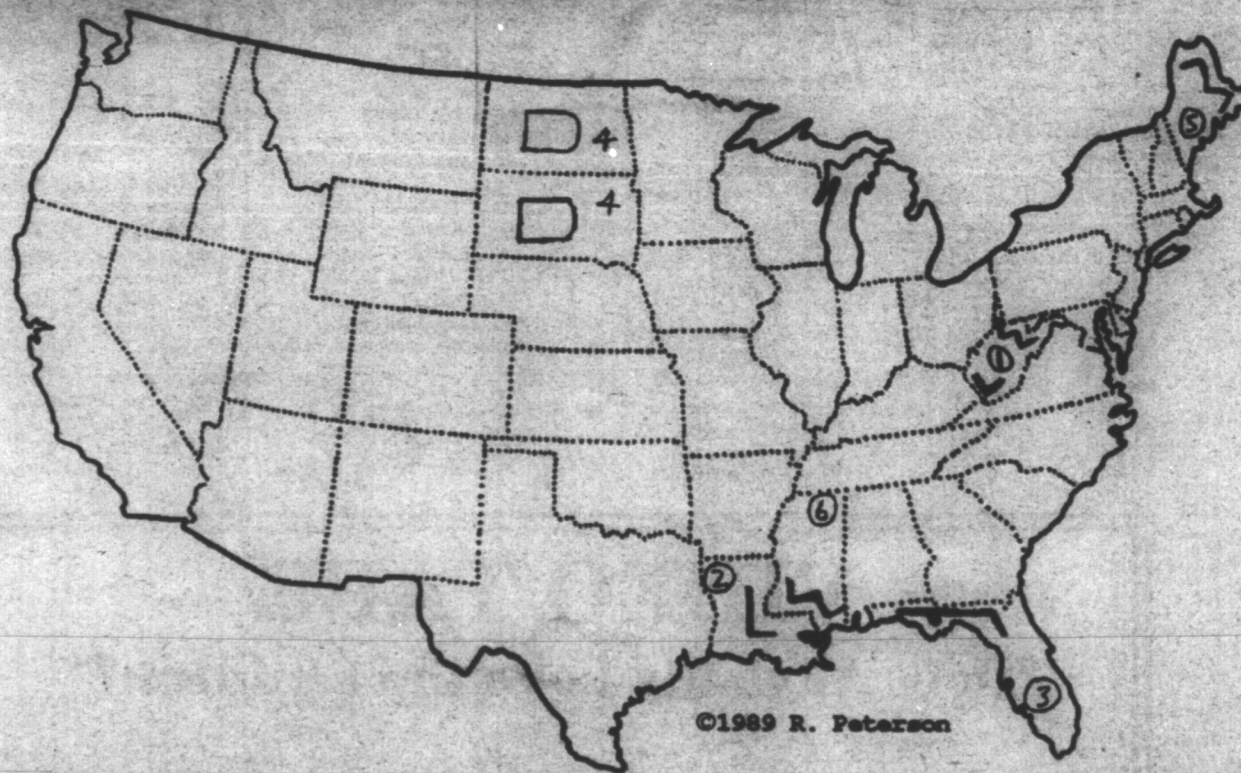
gelatin material between the toes which acts as a shock absorber when the animal walks. When an elephant stands, his feet get larger, but when he takes his weight off them, they become smaller.

When an elephant is injured, there is no doctor's office for him to go to, but God took care of that, too. God taught the elephant to plaster clay on an open wound with its trunk.

Many people believe that elephants never forget, but there is one thing we will never forget, and that is that God loved us enough to let his Son die on Calvary's cross that we might have eternal life.

If you think elephants are not special, think about this: God gave the elephant 12 teeth, but only four at a time. When the first four wear out, he gives them four more. Just think... wouldn't it be wonderful if we had only four teeth to brush three times a day?

Lucille Bailey lives at State Line.



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It's fun to use your imagination. Look at the above map of the United States.

Can you imagine that the numbered states on this map resemble the first letters of their names?

1. West Virginia. Can you imagine that the top and bottom border lines of this state look like "WV"?
2. Louisiana. Can you imagine an "L" here?
3. Florida. Turn the map sideways. Can you imagine an "F" here?
4. North and South Dakota. Can you imagine that these states look like a "stretched-out" capital "D"?
5. Maine. Can you imagine an "M" in its boundary?
6. Mississippi. Turn the map upside down. Can you see an "M" in the southern boundary?

Can you think of any other states like this?



Pen Pal Club

Dear Pen Pal Club,

My name is Joshua Anderson. I am 8 years old. I am in the second grade. I belong to Victory Baptist Church in Mathiston. I would really like to have a pen pal to write to. I like to ride my bike and play with my dog. His name is O'Toole and he likes to play chase. I have a little brother named Caleb. He is 3 years old.

Your friend,
Joshua Anderson
Rt. 2, Box 667-E
Mathiston, MS 39752

Hi,

My name is Jennifer McLain. I am 11 years old. I like swimming and skating. I really like writing letters. If you would like a pen pal, write to me.

Love,
Jennifer McLain
Rt. 2, Box 32
Byhalia, MS 38611

My name is Nikki Peugh. I am 11 years old. I go to Aberdeen Middle. My hobbies are reading, writing, and playing softball. I am in 5th grade. I would like a boy or girl to write to me at Rt. 4, Box 333-A, Aberdeen, MS 39730.

Love in Christ,
Nikki Peugh

"Bear" snacks for kids

Here are recipes for snacks you can make ahead of time for after school or for church activities. If you need help, ask a grown-up.

GRIZZLY GORP

2 c. TEDDY GRAHAMS Bear-wich's Sandwiches, any flavor
1 c. miniature marshmallows
1 c. dry roasted peanuts
1/2 c. seedless raisins

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. Store in an airtight container. Makes 4 1/2 cups.

POLAR BEAR SWIM

1 c. TEDDY GRAHAMS Bear-wich's sandwiches, any flavor
1 pint any flavor ice cream, softened

Stir graham sandwiches into softened ice cream. Cover and freeze until firm. Serve with your favorite sundae toppings if desired. Makes 4 servings.

Hi,

My name is Samantha Sullivan. I am 6 years old. I like skating and swimming. I would really like a pen pal. If you would like a pen pal, please write to me.

Love,
Samantha Sullivan
Rt. 1, Box 354
Byhalia, MS 38611

Hi,

My name is Chasity Sullivan. I am 9 years old. I like horseback riding and swimming. I like writing letters, too. So if you would like a pen pal, write to me.

Love,
Chasity Sullivan
Rt. 1, Box 354
Byhalia, MS 38611

Hi,

My name is Lyndsey Rich. I like swimming, playing volleyball, and skating. I am 11 years old and in the 6th grade. If you would like a pen pal, please write me.

Love,
Lyndsey Rich
Rt. 1, Box 450-J
Byhalia, MS 38611



Our nation's first national monument is Devil's Tower, 865 feet high, located in the Black Hills region of a national monument in 1906.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SD 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

March 19, 1992

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205